

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Le Jourdain
Supplément en français du Star

Les Jordaniens célèbrent l'anniversaire du Roi avec espoir

Voir page 12

The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on his birthday.

Many happy returns of the day

AMMAN, 14-20 NOVEMBER, 1996, VOLUME 7, NUMBER 27, 350 fils

أسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

King opens Parliament Tuesday

Controversy expected to dominate Lower House session

By Hamdan Al Hajj

Special to The Star
HIS MAJESTY King Hussein will open the last and fourth ordinary session of Parliament, Tuesday, during which he will deliver the Speech from the Throne.

It will be a joint session attended by deputies and senators. In a half-hour speech, King Hussein will tackle the prevailing issues that include the economy, peace process, national unity, the Jordanian-Arab relations, particularly with the Palestinians, Iraq, Syria and the Gulf countries. The King will also speak about the present relationship between Jordan and Israel.

After the King's speech, both houses of Parliament will meet separately to elect committees heads, members and deputies. The Lower House will elect a speaker. Both houses will elect committees to reply to the Speech from the Throne.

The outcome of the dispute over the position of the speaker of the Lower House is a foregone conclusion. Present speaker Saad Hayel Sroor is expected to be re-elected. But the opposition is determined to put up a fight. The opposition bloc has chosen Islamic Action Front deputy Ibrahim Zaid Al Kilani to contest the speakership. He is supported by 15 Islamists and seven other opposition deputies, namely Toujan Faisal, Trad Al Qadi, Talal Obaidat, and Abdullah Akhu Isheidat.

Sroor, on the other hand, is backed by 22 deputy/

ministers, 19 deputies from the National Action Front (NAF), seven deputies from Al Ikha'a bloc (Fraternity), and seven deputies from the National Front and in addition to other centrists.

Observers don't expect any surprises to take place within the coming few days, arguing that Al Sroor has a solid majority of 52 votes at least, while Al Kilani has only a bloc of 22 opposition deputies. Moreover, there are deputies who are abroad and will not attend the session.

The session is expected to be a stormy one. High on the agenda is the resignation of deputy Nazeem Ammarin.

"My resignation is final, my constituents in Karak will not accept the humiliation of one of their representatives," Mr Ammarin tells *The Star*.

He says there are two options: "The Lower House can accept my resignation, and if this happens, then I shall be again re-elected in the by-election that will follow."

"However, if the House rejects my resignation then I would demand an apology from Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarti."

The spokesman of the NAF, Taha Al Hababeh says that the Front will approve any resignation of any deputy. "When the resignation of Ammarin is submitted to the House, we shall accept it," he says.

Analysts argue that the session to discuss the resignation will be a tense one since the "resigning deputy" will insist on a full debate of the issues

that related to the last bread riots that took place in August. Mr Ammarin has earlier threatened to disclose sensitive issues regarding some ministers and deputies of the Lower House.

If this debate takes place, then the opposition deputies will find it an opportunity to hammer the government and the Prime Minister.

If discussions heat up, observers argue that the opposition could call for a vote of no confidence in the government. But again observers argue that there is a slim chance of that happen-

ing since the majority of deputies are not expected to approve such a session of no confidence.

Options remain open for the future of the Lower House. It may either be extended or even dissolved as soon as the ordinary session starts. If this happens then early parliamentary elections would take place. But this depends on how the deputies deal with the government and on the nature of their future relationship, particularly in the first days of this session.

If the Lower House convenes the session smoothly,

then the deputies will be able to discuss many economic issues that are considered vital to the economy and the business sector. These are fundamental to enhance domestic and external investments and provide flexibility in facilitating procedures for Jordanian, Arab and foreign businessmen to the country.

The King's decision to pardon those involved in recent riots and his call on the government to review the price of bread should ease tension between the government and the opposition. ■

Royal pardon opens new chapter in internal relations

By Star Staff Writer

A MOOD of national reconciliation has swept the country following His Majesty King Hussein's decision to pardon all those involved in the bread riots of last August which was made shortly after the King pardoned key political opponents of the government, Laith Shbeilat.

The pardons were welcomed by Jordanians and by political parties. Although no official figures were available, the Royal pardon includes all those who were arrested by security forces for their involvement in the riots which broke out in Karak and other southern

towns following a government decision to adjust its bread subsidies policy. At least 50 of the 250 people who were arrested were believed to be in detention at the time of the Royal pardon.

In his letter to Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarti, the King called on the government to take measures to end all legal procedures against those involved in the riots. The King's pardon also included a number of other detainees.

"I hereby request you to drop all procedures taken against those who deviated from the right path and harmed their nation and the country's achievements," the King said

in his letter to the Prime Minister. "...They would have a fresh start and desist from any future harmful actions to the national security, or acts of sabotage to Jordan's achievements and distortion of its image under any pretext."

In his letter, the King ordered the government to review bread prices in the light of the decrease of the prices of wheat in international markets.

The King also renewed his support of the Kabarti government by reiterating his support of its reform measures, especially the decision

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● Indonesian President Mohammad Suharto will end a four-day visit to the Kingdom, Thursday. The Indonesian president, who heads a high level official and business delegation, held talks with His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday. The two leaders discussed at length Jordanian-Indonesian bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarti and high-ranking officials. The King held a state dinner, Tuesday, in honor of the Indonesian president. The King praised bilateral ties and Indonesia's role in the Muslim world. On his part, President Suharto paid tribute to the King's leadership. During the visit a number of protocols were signed between the two countries. These are aimed at promoting investment, maritime transport and abolition of dual taxation. President Suharto, accompanied by his two daughters, visited Petra and the Dead Sea on Wednesday.

MENA conference success linked to easing of regional tensions

By Samir Raafat

Special to The Star

CAIRO—A year ago in Amman, Arabs and Israelis met for their second regional economic summit with three days of speeches and banquets devoted to the idea that the best way to promote peace is to make it pay. This week in Cairo, the same parties met for their third such gathering, only this time it is called a "conference" because the usual top summiteers are conspicuously absent. It is no secret that the move to downgrade political and government attendees to ministerial level was in order to avoid any uncomfortable encounters, meaning a face to face with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Despite the record attendance of businessmen, of which 500 alone reportedly came from Egypt, the absence of top officials—Canada and several other states were repre-

sented by their ambassadors—especially from several Arab countries, underscores that this year's Middle East/North Africa Economic parley was susceptible to the regional political climate and has not yet moved beyond politics and diplomacy into the hard-headed realm of business, and trade and that tangible progress has yet to be measured.

If Arab countries last year were sharply divided over how fast to establish normal relations with Israel in the absence of comprehensive peace involving Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, they seem closer today in spirit and direction than they had ever been since Iraq invaded Kuwait six years ago. If anything, the election last May of Israel's Likud-led government has narrowed down the existing divisions among the Arab hard-line and moderate states as was amply evidenced by the resolutions taken during

the Cairo held Arab Summit of last June.

As relations steadily soured between Israel and Egypt, and between Israel and its "new friends" in the region, a continuing interchange of acceleration and brakes regarding the holding of a third Mena summit had everyone guessing as to whether or not there would be one at all.

Eventually, with a lot of PR, outside pressures and international lobbying the way was paved for a "conference." Meanwhile, the media in Egypt which had been lukewarm all along was suddenly galvanized into an upbeat rendition of the event. Its multifold advantages were spelt out every morning and the stories gradually crept from page nine to the covers of the semi-official dailies. Television too, devoted hour-long blitzes on the advantages of this economic expo.

Continued on page 2

Jordanians mark second year of peace treaty with anger, frustration

By Rebecca Trounson

LA Times-Washington News Service

AMMAN—When Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, ending nearly five decades of mutual belligerence, Riad Abu Ezz was relieved that the years of conflict and fear were at an end.

Abu Ezz, 24, who works in a print shop near the University of Jordan, says he was optimistic too, believing that peace with Israel would translate to tangible economic benefits for the nation and for him.

Now, however, given Jordan's increasingly chilly relationship with Israel and no sign of the peace dividends that many here expected, the young man says he feels angry that he allowed himself to hope.

"There is nothing good about this agreement," Abu Ezz said last week, pausing during an evening shopping trip with his wife in downtown

Amman. "It's ... writing on paper only. It didn't bring anything to us."

At the popular and official level alike, there is deep frustration here these days with the lack of immediate economic benefit from the peace agreement, anger at the perceived intransigence of the new Israeli government and outrage over recent violence between Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank, just across the Jordan River.

Relations between Israel and Jordan, which once seemed on a rapid track to normalization, have slipped to their lowest level since the peace treaty was signed two years ago.

"There is a crisis between Jordan and Israel," said Information Minister Marwan Muasher, who served as Jordan's first ambassador to Israel. "The fact that a crisis exists does not mean there is any intention on Jordan's part to

deviate from the peace process."

Officials in Amman pointed to a day trip to Jordan by Israeli President Ezer Weizman, who often has used his largely ceremonial position to build goodwill with Arab leaders, including His Majesty King Hussein.

"It's important for us to send the message to the Israelis that we want the peace process to move forward but that we are worried," Muasher said.

Nonetheless, Muasher said, "we expect more of this relationship than it is producing. Both as a government and a people, we expect more."

For several months this year, King Hussein stood virtually alone among Arab leaders, calling for calm in the face of the election of Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing Likud Party, as Israel's prime minister.

Throughout the summer, the

King said it was too early to judge the new government and that he would give Netanyahu a chance to prove his peace credentials. In June, at an Arab summit in Cairo, Egypt, Jordan resisted a Syrian-led call for an immediate end to diplomatic and commercial ties with Israel.

But King Hussein, disappointed at the stalemate in the peace process and angered by Israel's decision in September to open a new door to a Jerusalem tourist tunnel without notifying him, lately has become openly critical of the Netanyahu government.

He has urged Israel to implement its agreements with the Palestinians and warned that the lack of progress invites further violence.

Not all in Jordan are sorry to see a slowing of what many viewed as an inappropriate race toward normalization with an old, bitter enemy. With twice-

daily flights between Amman and Tel Aviv and the opening of bus routes linking several Jordanian and Israeli cities, Jordan, seemingly overnight, had developed far broader ties to Israel than any Arab state.

The King's enthusiasm for the peace agreement with Israel—along with his emotional eulogy last November for his assassinated peace partner, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin—left many Jordanians confused and uncomfortable, said political science professor Radwan Abdullah.

"Why the hurry? Why couldn't we have coordinated with the Syrians and the Lebanese?" asked Abdullah, who chairs the political science department at the University of Jordan. "We are a weak country and we cannot ignore our environment in this way."

Ibrahim Izziden, a former

Continued on page 2

Pet lovers oppose quarantine with dogged determination

By William D. Montalbano

LA Times-Washington News Service

LONDON—Hong Kong Gov. Chris Patten may turn over Britain's prized colony to China with equanimity next year, but he will not surrender Whisky and Soda to authorities back home without protest.

"Preposterous," Patten at strict British quarantine laws that require him to send his two Norfolk terriers into six months' solitary confinement when they return to England.

As never before, animal rights, xenophobia and public health intersect in Britain today in narrow cages where family pets from abroad must prove in solitude that they do not have rabies before being allowed

into the country. Even animals belonging to the royal family get six months to cool their paws and prove their health.

Not all survive. Recent deaths of high-profile pets in quarantine cages have intensified pressures for reform of one of the world's toughest defense systems against rabies.

For the first time, there seems a chance that the pet quarantine may crumble.

The pathos of owners facing separation from beloved pets has captured the imagination and the sympathy of public and media alike: actress Elizabeth Hurley with tears in her eyes consigning German shepherd Nico to quarantine after a flight from Los Angeles; artist David Hockney painting in California exile because coming home would mean separation from dachshunds Stanley and

Boogie. And the British ambassador to rabies-free Cyprus, with his 14 cats and one dog, wondering if he can afford to come home at all. Quarantine costs the pets' owners around \$3,000 per dog and \$2,000 per cat.

The debate is emotional and incendiary. Cutting across class and political lines, it raises questions about Britain's view of itself—and its neighbors.

In a country renowned for its fondness for animals and its suspicion of foreigners, two-or four-legged, the government is besieged by articulate and outraged pet owners who accuse it of being cruel to animals. There hasn't been a case of rabies among the 200,000 dogs and cats to pass through quarantine in the past 25 years, they note caustically.

"It is a monstrously archaic system, totally xenophobic and fanned by hysteria. It must go," said Lady Mary Fretwell, a leader of an anti-quarantine group called Passport for Pets.

"Animals in quarantine die of stress—not rabies. Then they cut off an animal's head for examination, even if it dies of a broken heart."

Defenders of the system call it harsh but necessary, saying that strict quarantine has kept the British Isles rabies-free for decades. Why fix something that isn't broken, they ask?

And please do remember, many urge, that alternatives would mean abandoning the fate of British public health, to say nothing of the well-being of its animals, to the potentially unreliable word of foreigners. Suppose a rabid animal got loose?

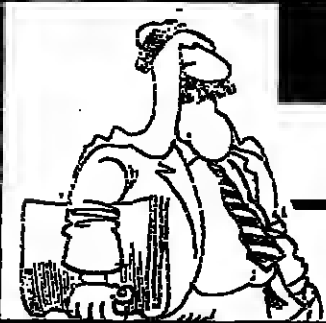
Two years ago, a select parliamentary committee recommended easing pet quarantine detention, which has been in effect for nearly a century. Last year, 9,250 animals were detained, 117 of which died. Through mid-October this year, 43 cats and 40 dogs died in quarantine.

Continued on page 2



Happy Birthday and long life Your Majesty





JORDAN

W E E K

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Awni Abu Ghosh

Regent says terrorism contradicts the values of Islam

AMMAN (Star)—Jordan and Israel stressed the importance of the Sharm el-Sheikh summit held on Wednesday, in uniting moderate voices against violence. HRH Crown Prince Hassan the Regent, the Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, and Prime Minister Kabirio held a press conference on Tuesday, during Mr Barak's brief visit to Jordan.

Prince Hassan stressed the fact that such violent acts are in contradiction with Islam as "a humane system of values." He added that Jihad is being misused by those for whom it is politically expedient to use violence. He said that "there are many moderate Moslem voices who condemn the accusation that there is anything related to Islam in the pictures of blood and violence in Ashkelon, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem."

On being asked about the existence of Hamas offices in Jordan, the Prince stressed that political offices of all kinds exist all over the world, and that Hamas itself has offices in London. "The peace treaty is committed to current and basic security, which we strive to protect, but it should not be seen as license within the rule of law to invade the rights of citizens." He stressed that Jordan and Israel should realize that they are both equally committed to peace. "It is not the world that is calling us to order, but we who wish to see security and the rule of law prevail in our region," he added.

Barak said he was fully satisfied with Jordan's security measures and the answers he received regarding Jordan's handling of the issue. He hoped that the summit in Egypt will ensure future cooperation with a wider circle of countries to the region, leading to a sharing of intelligence and technology to suppress terrorism in the area. "We should fight terrorism like our forefathers fought piracy on the high seas," he added, and pointed out that through a global effort, piracy was eradicated in less than half a generation.

On being asked how Israel proposes not to allow the current situation to lead to Islamophobia, Barak said that he believed "all people of the civilized world know that [these violent acts] are not in the spirit of Islam, but rather contrary to that spirit." He further added that the gathering in Egypt is proof that most of the leaders of the Islamic world are against terrorism and wish to fight it.

DUP out of the anti-normalization scene

The Popular Committee for the Protection of the Holy Land and Resistance to Normalization seems to be facing a split. In its recent meeting, a row started over the appointment of two of its members, Dr Mustapha Shneikat and Dr Kamal Nasser as ministers in the Kabirio Government. In what is perceived as an ultimatum to Dr Shneikat's Democratic Unity Party (DUP), the committee asked the party to either expel the minister or withdraw him from the cabinet. Being what they are, the DUP stood by their man and walked out of the meeting.

The DUP argues that though it is a member of the committee, it has the right as an independent party, to have different views on the many issues of the committee. The DUP endorsed Shneikat's ministerial designation on the basis of its conviction and approved by its democratic institutions. Hence, the DUP rejects any interference in its internal affairs. Strong words indeed.

DUP's deputy secretary general Mr Fahmi Katkut said

"we are interested to give the Government and the minister (Shneikat) a chance, and then assess their performance in as far as deepening public freedoms, the elections law, dialogue with the political parties, the press, and human rights are concerned." But what is strange is that the DUP was never consulted on Shneikat's appointment. Like many others, he was approached as an individual deputy.

Ministry of Higher Education's future at stake

Higher education, university policies and admissions, and financial allowances at universities are burning issues that have recently been brought into focus by seminars, parliamentary debates, and press reports. These however, didn't do much to help the Ministry of Higher Education. It is going to the chop, or so it seems.

The Lower House is expected to debate the Government's new draft law on higher education. As part of its strategy to revamp education, the Government wants to abolish the said ministry.

Some argue that there is no need for a ministry if the autonomy of state universities is ensured, their finances guaranteed, and administration is well set up. But even then these universities cannot solve the problem of the dozens of thousands of annual secondary school leavers who seek university education. The raising of university fees as a means of limiting university enrollment only recycles the problem and increases unemployment. Coordination with the ministry of education could help to find a radical solution, but it will be a long therapy course. The education policy and orientation at this ministry need, still, deeper review and replanning. This can only be properly done through the involvement of all those concerned in the country.

Lawyers election heat

The sudden resignation of Dr Kamal Nasser, former chairman of the Jordanian Lawyers Association to become the Minister of Administrative Development, led to a heated competition between Jordanian lawyers.

The post, now up for grabs has sent many lawyers scurrying.

Though the number of candidates has already reached seven, the association failed to hold a general meeting last Friday because there was no quorum. The meeting will be convened tomorrow Friday, while the elections will take place 19 April.

Lawyers Ziad Khasawneh, a nationalist, and Mr Saleh Al Armoil, supported by the Islamists, will run for the post of president.

Fixing the journalist identity

The Legal Commission of the Lower House has been reviewing the Jordan Press Association's provisional draft law for the last two weeks. Should the Government suggest any amendments to its articles, then the whole law would have to be withdrawn from any parliamentary debate.

The Star learned the adjustments to the Provisional Law touch upon the definition of a journalist. He should be a writer, a reporter, or an editor, or anyone who has a university degree in journalism. Workers at news agencies, Radio, or TV, should also be seen as journalists. Training at newspapers is also dropped as a condition for JPA membership. However, standing orders for chief editors remain as they are, otherwise the Press and

Publishing Law would have to be amended. If these amendments are to be approved, the JPA ranks will certainly grow stronger, and its efficiency and influence will also be greater.

Two Egyptian lawyers volunteer to defend Shbeilat

In its session on Sunday, the State Security Court witnessed a sharp verbal exchange between Shbeilat's lawyer and the prosecutor-general. According to Al Majd weekly, each reserved the right to follow legal procedures against the other at a later stage.

The dispute between the defending lawyer Jawad Yunis and the prosecutor-general Mahmoud Ubeidat erupted during the questioning of the witness Bassam Baddarin, a correspondent of Al Quds Al Arabi, who interviewed Shbeilat in July 1995, but that issue of the newspaper was censored by the Press and Publishing Dept.

In a later session this week, lawyer Ahmed Najdawi, also for the defence announced at the Court the arrival of two Egyptian lawyers to join Shbeilat's defense committee. They are Dr Abdel Halim Mandour and Dr Kamel Mandour. There is an agreement between Jordan and Egypt where lawyers can defend clients in either country.

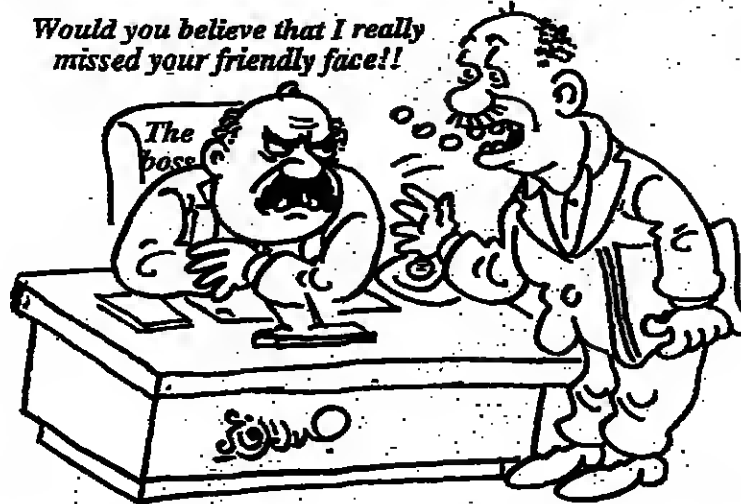
While questioning the witness, Mr Yunis was interrupted by Ubeidat, who accused the defender of playing with the witnesses memory and called on the judge to consider the presentation of a photocopy of the interview as satisfactory. Yunis didn't accept that and regarded the prosecutor as fragmenting the defender's evidence.

Objections and counter objections from both sides led to accusations and counter accusations. The session was adjourned. Meanwhile, the Engineers Association called on their members and engineering companies to participate to a two hour sit-in, from 11 am to 1 pm today, Thursday, 14 March, in solidarity with Shbeilat. The sit-in is to be held in the Provisional Association Complex.

Hamad: In for the chop!

Former Interior Minister Salameh Hamad might be taken to court for "a number of administrative abuses," said Al Bilad Weekly. It added that Hamad is criticized for giving public bus routes and of distributing state-owned land to certain individuals. Al Bilad

Would you believe that I really missed your friendly face!!



Jamal Khafad Dastour

New elections law viewed

Deputy Toujan Faisal said the elections law presented by the Government maintains two basic and essential defects. They are: the one

Dr Fahd Faneek said the one man one vote system is best as it brings about the most representative system, avoids the possibility of



any group receiving votes incompatible with its real size, and free political platforms from blackmail. Dr Raif Joneidi called for a democratic election law through the scrutinization of the whole legal system, especially the separation between the three authorities. He said a deputy is a representative of the nation, and that the powers of both houses of Parliament should be separated in favor of the Lower House as far as legislation is concerned. Joneidi added that there should be guarantors which insure the deputy's stability, and his function in monitoring and passing laws free from political appeasement.

noted that these accusations have been combined with rumors about the 'expropriation' of state lands by certain public figures and the abuse of public positions illegally. It pointed out that Prime Minister Kabirio's prompt reply to deputy Bassam Umoush's questions in this regard, which expressed the Government's regret for those shortcomings and hoping they wouldn't re-occur in the future, clearly acknowledges that those violations actually took place.

In fact, the reopening of discussion on such matters in the Lower House, and Umoush's accusation of Hamad as a 'centre of corruption' during his ministerial term, constitute another factor for Hamad's possible being before the court, Al Bilad believes. Still more, Kabirio asked Umoush to forward to the Prosecutor General or to the Government any document that supports his statement. This confirms the Kabirio Government's determination to take anybody to the court for mismanagement if relevant documents are provided.

Letter to Sharm el Sheikh summit

The President of the General Union of Palestinian Women Samiha Khalil addressed the Sharm el Sheikh Summit. In a

Parties of the national front discuss unity

It seems that everybody is merging. Well not everybody, for some are as distinct in their political aura and ideology as black and white. Still, the four centrist parties, those of the National Coalition, Progress and Justice, Al Yagtha, and Al Watan parties are coming together again. Only last week they met to try and turn themselves into one party. Although they are linked in a loose coalition, the Jordanian National Front, their movement towards integration started last year.

But why the delay? They more or less have the same ideology and outlook and believe in the finer things in life. But one thing remains a problem. Most of the leaders of these parties want to be bosses. Most, are, in their respective sphere. Al Rawabdeh of the Al Yagtha, the old man of politics would certainly not see eye to eye with Ali Farid Al Sa'ad, the Progress and Justice chief of Jordanian tobacco.

letter to the delegates, she reminded them of the Israeli actions of mass manslaughter, destruction and imprisonment of Palestinians. The letter said that since the Madrid Conference in October 1991, Israel has killed 400 Palestinians, imprisoned 1,550 people, uprooted 30,292 trees, demolished 232 houses and confiscated 253,084 dunums.

Leaders agree to cooperate in security matters

Continued from page 1 the peace process on track—a proposal originally made by the Syrians who boycotted the summit.

Presidents Clinton and Mubarak avoided any criticism of Syria's President Assad for not attending the summit. President Mubarak said Syria is committed to peace while Mr Clinton told reporters that Syria had its reasons for not attending.

In a joint press conference, Mr Clinton and Mr Mubarak avoided specific question about what concrete actions will be taken to combat terrorism and reassure the Israelis. Mr Clinton said people should look at what was achieved rather than what was not and said he was satisfied at the historic gathering and the commitment to peace that was generated.

While world leaders were meeting in southern Sinai, Hamas and other militant groups renewed their pledge to resume attacks against Israelis in an Islamic conference to confront the terrorism summit which was held in Lebanon on Wednesday.

Islamists attack summit

Continued from page 1 and justifying its convening as a way to provide unequivocal support to the peace process. They underlined that Jordan was too a victim of terrorism. They added that the summit will provide means to support the Palestinians in their attempt to form their own state, while depriving the anti-peace forces of the opportunity of undermining that effort.

While underlining the IAF rejection of all forms of terrorism, spokesman of the IAF Mr Hamzeh Mansour pointed out that delegates to the summit should address the continued occupation of Palestine and the evacuation of its people; the continued occupation of Jerusalem and Israel's insistence on regarding it as its eternal capital; demolishing Palestinian houses; land confiscation and settlement construction; collective punishment of Palestinians; the imprisonment of Palestinians including the elderly, women, and children; and the continued occupation of southern Lebanon. "Are these not acts of terrorism?" he asked.

He charged that Israel's terrorism is supported materially and morally while it continues to ignore international resolutions. That leaves no alternative to the people but to resort to legitimate forms of national resistance which is legal under all laws and norms, Mansour said.

Another IAF deputy, Dr Hamam Said, expressed his surprise over Jordan's position in support of Israel and stated that the Jewish entity has not returned the holy places it occupies. He demanded the government to stop its denunciation and to break away from the American grip.

Experts sceptical

Continued from page 1 acts, and Jordan also cannot accept the fact that artificial obstacles are put in the way of peace." He added "We have committed ourselves to the peace process, to regional cooperation, to democracy, to peaceful coexistence in the region. Therefore Jordanian foreign policy should be very adamant on this position."

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Realistic targets or wishful thinking?

Continued from page 1

al Khouri, director of a local economic consultancy firm states. Mr Khouri believes that the initiatives proposed by the prime minister are extremely realistic given the dire state of the Jordanian economy. "Jordan doesn't have one left for business as usual," Mr Khouri believes that Jordan's economic "troubles" are analogous to a person with a "serious illness: 54 percent of total investment [in Jordan] is under Government control," he explains, "more than Syria which is a traditional example of a socialist style," he adds. These types of discouraging facts, according to al Khouri, require even more ambitious initiatives than those laid out.

Despite the differences of

opinion regarding the level of ambition of the measures, most believe that Mr Kabirio does bring something new to government which his predecessors missed. "The difference is style," Mr Khouri explains. He believes Mr Kabirio brings to the prime ministry a "modern" approach to politics. Specifically, he cites the new prime minister's ability to deal with opposing views and opinions as a welcome attribute. Nevertheless, he warns that this may not be enough to significantly affect the state of the economy. He is hopeful, however, that Mr Kabirio can "tip the scale in the right direction."

For Mr Rifai, the difference is not so much in Mr Kabirio's economic plan, but in the current political environment.

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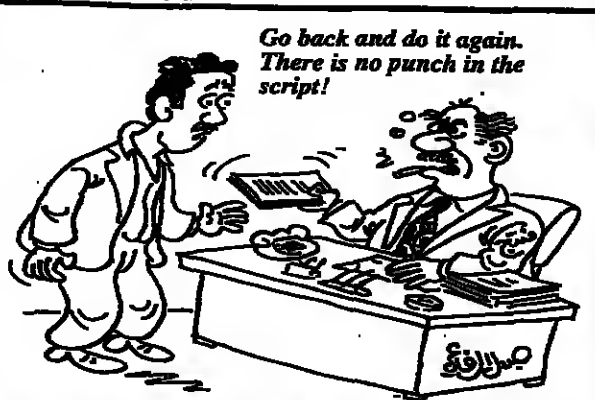
● The Jordanian journalists delegation who were invited by Cyprus Airways to visit Cyprus. (Top, left to right), Samir Hiyari (Raf), Mr. Clementis Nattis (Cyprus Tourism Organization, ME & Gulf), Nabil Ghishan (Aswag), Muna Bajaj (Urdu Jadd), Nader Ajlilat (Ad Dastour) (Sitting, left to right), Rafiq Thoniparakal (Jordan Times), Mahmoud Faris (Star), Awni Madin (Cyprus Airways, Amman).

JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



Go back and do it again. There is no punch in the script!

Shbeilat given Royal pardon

Laith Shbeilat is a free man again. In a dramatic move, he was given a Royal pardon by His Majesty King Hussein last week. Shbeilat, the president of the Engineers Association, was jailed for seven months on *lese majeste* charges. King Hussein personally drove Mr. Shbeilat from Swaga prison to his mother's home and said that the decision was taken because of his close relationship with the Shbeilat family. The King referred to Shbeilat's deceased father, Farhan Shbeilat, as an uncle. In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabariti, the King said, "I would like you to consider this letter as a decree to order the immediate release of Mr. Shbeilat. It is our wish to pardon him and consider the [seven] months period he spent in prison as sufficient." Mr. Shbeilat was originally sentenced to three years for slandering Their Majesties King Hussein, Queen Noor and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.



Shbeilat

Weeklies to court

The Press and Publications Dept., of the Ministry of Information, has certainly been busy in the last few years. Since 1993, it presented 77 cases of newspaper misconduct to court. All of these were weeklies which were said to have violated the Press and Publication Law of 1993. In that year alone, 16 cases were taken to court, in 1994 it was 29 cases and 19 in 1995 according to a study by the Press and Publication Department. This year the number of cases presented to the courts have numbered 13 and they could still go up before the end of the year. *Al Bilad* weekly is on the top of the list. Eighteen cases were presented against it since 1993, nine of these are still being looked into. *Al Majd* has had six cases against it. Only once was the weekly indicted. *Shihani* weekly was taken to court three times, these cases are still being looked into. *Al Sabeel* was taken to court once. Others who are still facing charges include *Sawt Al Mar'a* (4 cases), *Al Haqqa* (6 cases), *Hawadeth Al Sa'ah* (1 case).

Al Khasawneh wins UN committee membership

Royal Court Chief Awn Al Khasawneh has just won the elections to the Committee of International Law which is a United Nations affiliate. The elections, which were held in the United Nations in New York, proved tough, but Mr. Khasawneh got the most votes beating representatives from China, India, and Japan. This is the third consecutive time that Mr. Khasawneh becomes a member of such a committee which deals with legal agreements between different countries. Elections to the legal committee are held every five years.



Al Khasawneh

Begging in Zerga

The Committee Against Begging and Homelessness of the Zerga Social Development Directorate has been hot on the heels of those who would dare defy the law and beg. Only last month, it rounded up 26 beggars in the Zerga Governorate. These are boys and girls between the ages of eight and 16. According to the head of the directorate Mr. Ahmed Lafi, these will be taken to court. Mr. Lafi called on the citizens of Zerga to put an end to this unsavory phenomena by not giving beggars any money, adding that society and aid funds exist to help those in need.

Even animals can't escape!

I don't know what to make of this case. A man shot a donkey dead for mating with his female donkey. The man told a judge that he caught the two beasts at it and decided to shoot the male donkey in defence of the honor of the female donkey. Is this serious? Apparently so! What is interesting is how the case got to court in the first place and listened to by the judges. What is more intriguing is that the court sentenced the man to prison.

Jordanian diplomats attacked

Jordanian diplomats were the subject of an armed attack as they entered Iraqi territory from Jordan. The diplomatic car carrying the diplomats, which is the property of the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad, was attacked by armed bandits according to eyewitness reports. After shooting at the car, the driver was killed and the bandits stole the diplomatic bag which contained Jordanian passports before running away. The Foreign Ministry was informed of the attack by the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad, and immediately took precautions. It contacted all the embassies in Amman and gave them the numbers of the stolen passports.

General Intelligence Dep't on-line

The General Intelligence Dep't has now a permanent website on the Internet. It is the first intelligence agency in the Arab world to have such a facility and will be providing information to anyone who wishes to log into its website, through its electronic mail number. The department, which feels it is necessary to use the latest techniques of the communications age, hopes that this would be one way of encouraging dialogue between ordinary Jordanians and other visitors on the website with the General Intelligence Department.



The Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. Tansu Ciller ended a two-day meeting to Jordan, Tuesday. She was received by His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan at the Royal Court. Mrs. Ciller, who was accompanied by a full delegation, also met with Prime Minister Kabariti. During a press conference Mrs. Ciller said she had a very beneficial discussion with King Hussein about the problems of the region, the latest developments in Iraq and security issues. She said Jordan and Turkey reached an agreement to fight terrorism and another agreement to set up a committee to deal with defence issues. And in this respect the two sides are discussing the setting up of an Organization for Cooperation in The Middle East. This is an idea that was first talked about by Prince Hassan. She said that Jordan made a request to buy water from Turkey and that the Turkish government is studying that request carefully.

Seminar censures Netanyahu's policies on peace

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

THE HARDLINE policies of the Israeli Likud government under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have been the centre of criticism in last week's seminar on the evaluation of the peace process from an Arab perspective.

Organized by the International Press Institute (IPI) at the Intercontinental Hotel, the seminar hosted a number of Jordanian and Arab senior officials and diplomats in addition to Arab and foreign journalists. The opening statement was given by Dr. Nabeel Al Sharif, editor in chief of *Ad Dastour* Arabic daily.

The participants agreed on the fact that Netanyahu's delay of the implementation of the peace accords endangers the whole peace process. They said Netanyahu's concept of security before peace is unwarranted. "There can not be security without peace, nor there can be peace without security," said Dr. Usama Al Baz, first under-secretary at the Egyptian Ministry of Affairs.

He added that Netanyahu must seek a balance between his ideologies and what he must do in reality regarding the peace process. Al Baz also ridiculed the so-called Puer-torian style status for Palestinians suggested lately by Netanyahu.

Furthermore, Israel does not take the concept of economic integration seriously. The recommendations of the economic summits are still being overlooked by Israel. "Israel still considers itself as part of



(From L to R) Dr. Nabeel Al Sharif, Dr. Abu Jaber, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Al Baz

Europe and not the Middle East," said Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, former minister of foreign affairs and the head of Jordanian delegation to The Madrid Conference in 1991.

The participants stressed that the Arab reaction towards Netanyahu's policies was natural. Answering a question if the Arab reaction might have complicated the matter, Al Baz said that all that we ask Israel to do is "to show a full commitment towards the agreements signed."

Abu Jaber explained that when talking about peace we must refer to Oslo II and not the UN resolution 242 "which is not a complete justice." According to Al Baz the redeployment of Israeli troops in Hebron is but a minor step.

The critical situation required that Arabs seek a united position to put more pressure on the Israeli government. "There can not be a common coordinated

of the Gulf War," Mr. Mahmoud El Sherif, former minister of information, told *The Star*.

Radwan Abu Ayyash, chairman of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) said that the PNA position has been boosted lately by the Arab stand against the Israeli policies. He added that "the PNA showed the whole world that it is interested in peace while Israelis keep denying the peace agreements."

He told *The Star* that the PNA position is neither Palestinian nor an Arab but an international one.

Downplaying the significance of the reelection of the American President Bill Clinton to the acceleration of the peace process, Al Baz said that "it is unfair to expect the US to exert pressure on

Israel."

The international media launched criticism against Israel's delay of the implementation of the peace agreements. Al Baz pointed out that "even Jewish writers in the world media were not in favour of the Israeli government's anti-peace mentality. "The vast majority of the comments about the Likud government were not supportive. I would urge the media to do more," said Peter Peterson, chairman of the IPI.

The delegation then headed to the Royal Court where His Majesty King Hussein delivered a speech. The King stressed that understanding between the people of the region is a key element towards peace. He said that "no side should look down on another but work as equals

seeking solutions to the concerns of each." The meeting was attended by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mr. Abdel Karim Al Kabariti, Minister of Information Dr. Marwan Muasher and HRH Princess Ghida Tala.

The one-day seminar which was prepared for five months ago coincided with the annual biennial meeting of the IPI which met in Amman last week. Its members wanted to know more about the peace process in the Middle East from an Arab perspective, according to Dr. Nabeel Al Sharif.

The IPI is a global network of editors and media executives whose objective is to fight for press freedom. More than 60 media professionals from 22 countries participated in the Amman meeting.

Delegation from the Talasemia International visits Al Bashir Hospital

A DELEGATION from the Executive Council of the Talasemia International Organization visited Al Bashir Hospital last week. The delegates who were from Canada, USA, Cyprus and Greece, were briefed by the Hospital's Director-General on the hospital and the services it provides for its patients.

They visited the Talasemia Center in the hospital and was briefed by Dr. Sameer Al Faouri on the origins of the center and the quality of medical services it provides to Talasemia patients. He added that there is another center in Irbid.

The delegation also visited the Blood Bank, where they were briefed by Dr. Nedal Irshaid on the various services provided by the Bank to all patients in different hospital and health centers in the country. Dr. Irshaid said that the Blood Bank ensures the availability of blood to all patients in the Kingdom.

The delegation then held a meeting with Al Bashir Hospital doctors and Talasemia patients. They discussed the social and psychological effects of this disease and its treatment dimensions. They stressed that contrary to popular beliefs, patients lead ordinary lives and their daily work remains unaffected.

The delegates expressed their admiration of the medical services offered to the patients in Jordan.

Learning to cook with Hotel Intercontinental Jordan

ON THE 13th of November, Hotel Intercontinental Jordan organized cooking lessons for the ladies of Amman. The Executive Chef Mr. Clement Soustra demonstrated in front of the eager participants the method of preparing a delicious menu which included "Tomato Cakes with a Salpicon of Shrimps, Salmon Steak with Butter Lemon Sauce served with Spinach and for desert Strawberry Orange with Honey Sauce."

After the conclusion of lesson the delicious feast was enjoyed by all the participants in the cozy atmosphere of the El Pasha Night Club.

Hotel Intercontinental Jordan is also holding a second session on 27 November with another surprise menu. So we say "Merci Beaucoup" to the Chefs for sharing their secrets.

Look out for more gourmet delights from our Chefs in the very near future.

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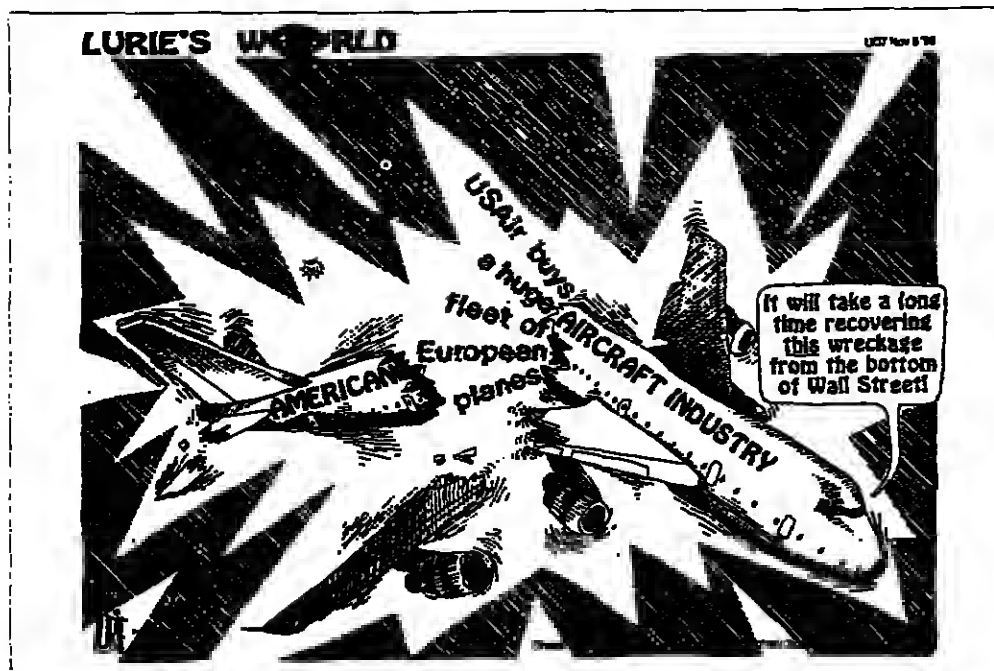
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Our Say...

Peace basic to MENA's success

"NO GRAND idea was ever born in a conference, but a lot of foolish ideas have died there," the great writer F. Scott Fitzgerald once said. Could the same be true about the Middle East and North Africa Economic conference?

As it enters its third year, the MENA summit is finding itself becoming an end rather than a mean to achieve the cherished goal of regional cooperation and development within the Middle East peace process. This year's meeting in Cairo is a case in point.

The summit has lost much of the allure and promise that accompanied the first meeting in Casablanca and was enhanced in Amman the following year. The multibillion dollar infrastructure projects that were submitted at the Amman conference last year have all been shelved for lack of international commitment and financing. The great expectations pinned on the Middle East Development Bank have now been humbled and the proposed bank is still a project more on paper than on the ground.

The zeal that surrounded the Amman summit has all but vanished, replaced by scepticism and doubt. The MENA summit has become an empty ritual, dashing the hopes of millions in this region of a major upturn in their daily lives through joint venture projects and international investments.

What went wrong? Surely the initial concept of building bridges of cooperation across the region on the remains of dismantled barbed wires that have kept countries and peoples apart for so long remain valid. The Middle East, a region with much potential and promise, was to be transformed from a land of crisis and war to a powerhouse for economic development and prosperity. The promise of economic rejuvenation as the only viable mean to safeguard newly found peace remains a noble and lofty one.

But much has happened since the Amman meeting. The peace process, which remains the linchpin of political, economic and social stability in the region, has foundered. Beginning with the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the series of suicide bombings carried out by Muslim militants earlier this year, the stage was set for a major upheaval in the components of the Middle East peace process.

With the election of a hardline government in Israel, the agenda for a peaceful settlement in the region changed overnight. Today, as Palestinians and Israelis wrangle over details of Israel's troop redeployment in Hebron and the implementation of the joint accords, the Middle East is waking up from its sweet slumber to a harsh reality of mutual distrust and renewed hostility. Economic cooperation and regional prosperity become anachronistic, almost distasteful, proposals in a region that expects massacres in Hebron, war over the Golan, bloodshed in southern Lebanon and civil unrest ignited by deep divisions in Israel.

There is no doubt that the ideals perpetuated by MENA will continue to inspire the optimists and those who aspire for a better Middle East. But until genuine and lasting peace settles in this part of the world, such venues will create frustration rather than hope. We must return to the basics of forging an honorable peace based on international legitimacy.

Letters to the Editor

Great homecoming

To The Editor,

I have just finished reading "The Great Homecoming" article by Manal Omar (The Star 7 November). Line by line and word by word, I found myself relating to everything Omar mentioned. It is exactly how I felt during my visit to Amman. Her depiction of situations she encountered, the picture she drew, and her rhetoric were definitely things to marvel about. I am looking forward seeing future articles by this talented writer.

Your (now faithful) reader in California

Keep up the goodwork

To The Editor,

It is so nice to have you on line, I am a psychiatrist practicing in the US, I have recently discovered your site on the www. Keep up the good work.

Imad Khreim, MD

Shy debate

To The Editor,

I am impressed with your news coverage. I was especially interested

in the article on Christianity in government schools starts a "silly debate" by Raed Al Abed. (The Star 7 November). Look forward to connecting on to your internet version again, soon.

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Nahnah

Resistance legitimate under slavery and humiliation

By Mahfoud Nahnah

VIOLENCE AND terrorism are seldom immediate responses to a denial of justice by an established authority, although this may represent the ignition spark of such phenomena. In fact, they represent abnormalities that are "normal" consequences of a long process whose milestones are abuse, injustice, humiliation and frustration. This is particularly true in the case of countries of the South. Terrorism does not come out of nowhere. There are numerous ideas which nourish it and interest groups which stand behind it. Causes of this phenomenon, include:

■ The effects of the colonial period which left the South structurally disadvantaged with respect to the North. And the gap between the two is still increasing.

■ The attempts by ruthless regimes, more preoccupied by their own selfish fate, to implement unfair policies. With no democracy, the people have no way to demand redress and are more inclined to radicalization. Such policies led to the dilapidation of oil revenues in the case of oil countries.

■ Degradation of living standards, along with demographic explosion, multiplication of shanty towns, illiteracy (political also), etc. Social problems which served as fertile ground for extremism and the dissemination of many negative ideas.

The violence in Algeria is not the result of stopping the electoral process in 1991. It is the consequence of 30 years of a totalitarian socialist regime. Politically, the unique party system did not allow any opposing views or freedom of speech. Economically, the central planning system did not leave room to any entrepreneurial initiative. Culturally, an ideological minority prevented the authentic culture, truly emerging from within the people, from developing and imposing itself naturally.

The above leads me to situate the Algerian case in its right context. A lot of criminal acts are committed in the name of Islam and the Islamic movement. But the Algerian situation is only circumstantial, whatever its seriousness. It would be wrong to let this "tree" of violence mask the magnificent "forest" of Islam. The magnifying lens of the media tends to overemphasize these negative actions.

We need to develop a knowledge of Islam based on science and moderation. The media plays a great role in exaggerating violence. But I firmly believe that good deeds always overcome wrongdoings. Media coverage is not the only concern. The regimes imposed on our people bear a great deal of responsibility for the misunderstanding of Islam. They also participate in the campaign of distortion of Islam and forbid any opposing views.

Some of these regimes might think that they serve their interests by misrepresenting Islam. Actually, they deepen the gap which separates them from their

own people and the rest of the people of the world because of suspicion and misunderstanding. People from the West should give little credit to such propaganda which blurs the image of Islam.

Fortunately, some world powers have come to realize what the stakes are and have started changing their attitude towards the Islamic movement.

I abhor terrorism. I know all the suffering it causes to its victims. I am, myself, going through the experience of facing it and condemning it unequivocally for long years. Even if it uses the cover of religion. But the difference between me and a lot of western intellectuals and politicians is the fact that I condemn all terrorism. Whether its victims are westerners or Muslims. For me, they are all human beings. The essential shortcoming of the West in coping with terrorism may very well be the double standards problem. How can we otherwise, explain the gathering of 30 world leaders at the Sharm El Sheikh summit as a sign of solidarity with 60 Israeli dead and the alarming silence over more than 60,000 dead in

as culture, behavior or technology. They even reject civilized arrangements of cohabitation between people and countries or political democracy as a basic foundation of government. It is clear, under such circumstances, that the right path is the one that stands in the middle. The West should cease fabricating the so-called Islamic threat, and Muslims should develop the ability to interact positively with the others. Taking and giving all what can serve the benefit of humanity as a whole should be the motivation of all civilizations. Terminology and concept misuses. One cannot ignore the amalgam between Islam and fundamentalism which is maintained in the West.

Part of this amalgam, is the continuous and unjustified link between Islam and terrorism. Fundamentalism is not a neutral term in the West. For them, deeply impregnated with Christian values, it means a very serious evil. It is also synonymous with intolerance and a frozen attitude toward religious texts.

The main motivation of the appearance of the contemporary Islamic movement, with all its

the prejudice against Arabs and Muslims. But up till now, they continue to be portrayed negatively. The stereotype of the Arab sheikh with his bundles of bank notes and his harem following him, or that of the blood thirsty Arab warrior with his sword are still hard to die.

The Arab remains a terrorist even if he is merely defending his right to exist. But one must say that the Arab media also fail to convey the high values of the Islamic culture and civilization, or the positive image of the Arab as a person. Three introductions to the knowledge of Islam: Instead of concentrating on marginal and small groups, I think that all those who seek a better understanding of Islam, its heritage and its culture should do it through three introductions.

The first one is direct contact with Arabs and Muslim people who candidly express their religious beliefs in a climate of tolerance. Away from secularists' interference.

extremists constraints or professional politicians bias. The proof of the importance of this method is the conversion of great many western intellectuals to Islam after being directly exposed to people who were far from any political interference. Among those one can cite Naser Eddine Dinet, the renowned French painter who converted to Islam while living in Boussada in southern Algeria in the 1930's or Muhammad Assad during his trip to Mecca.

The second one is the direct study of the holy Koran and the tradition of the prophet. But due to the language barrier, this may prove difficult for most people from the West.

The third is the contact with scholars of the Arab and Muslim world which are not linked to palaces and regimes. Scholars who do not adopt the populist attitude of bending to any demand of advice *a la carte*. The best representatives of such scholars are those close to the contemporary Islamic movement. Because they bend neither to the arbitrary demands of the masses nor to the pressure of the ruthless regimes.

It is true that Islamic movements are numerous. But this multiplicity is more complementary than antagonistic. The most important criteria should be openness to dialogue, ability to reasonable argumentation and methodology of advertising its views. Other criteria are gradual treatment of political, economic and cultural issues and avoiding superfluous discussions on matters that do not bring any real benefit to society. Once we apply these criteria, along with others pertaining to efficacy and the ability to interact with others, we can consider that we have the framework which will enable us to recognize an authentic Islamic movement.

The author is the president of the Movement of the Islamic Society, an Algerian political party.

The West must look carefully into the concepts that our truthful and trusted prophet brought and look into their intrinsic values

Algeria. No one was able to even bring the parties together for the condemnation of such crimes against humanity.

The first thing to do to deal with terrorism, is to call upon all parties to take a stand of principle against it. Fighting terrorism should not be hindered by... circumstantial interests and partisan opportunism. This also means that it is both ethically and politically unacceptable for some countries to use the slogan of fighting terrorism to deprive

entire people of their rights or to elude their commitment to decisions of the international community. Once again, the *sine qua non* for the success of the fight against terrorism is to make standing against it a matter of principle.

Terrorism is a factor of underdevelopment, destruction of societies and a threat against national unity. It is a nurturing element of poverty, disease and ignorance. Ultimately, it is through addressing such global problems that we can go a step further. The step of prevention.

The Islamic world is a victim of a double extremism. The first one being represented by some western circles which try to present Islam as a scarecrow. The new enemy after the fall of communism. The second one is represented by some indigenous circles that reject all what comes from the West. Whether it is ide-

ologies, is the search for our identity and self realization in the wake of western colonialism in the Arabic and Islamic world. It is also a resistance to the new world order which manifests the will to neglect and exclude the entire South—which is good only for exploiting its natural resources or using it for dumping toxic wastes and testing nuclear weapons.

We must differentiate between terrorism and violence on one side and the different forms of resistance. The first aims at imposing one ideas through the use of force and ignore totally the values of dialogue.

The second seeks the emancipation from foreign domination. If terrorism has no religion, life has no meaning under slavery and humiliation and resistance is perfectly legitimate. What complicates things further is that most westerners do not consider Islam as a religion belonging to the tradition of Abraham, like Christianity and Judaism.

The West must look carefully into the concepts that our truthful and trusted prophet brought and look into their intrinsic values. The prophet Mohamed, peace be upon him, stressed such values as responsibility, freedom, civilized argumentation and acceptance of the other point of view. Fortunately, some western intellectuals are making sincere efforts to make up for

The Clintons

Poisonous gift of fate

Clinton, The President They Deserve, by Martin Walker, London, Fourth Estate, \$25.

Reviewed By R.W. Apple

AFTER EIGHT years in Washington as correspondent of The Guardian, Martin Walker under stands the United States far better than many American journalists. In his new biography of President Clinton, he paints a vivid portrait not only of the friends of Bill who came to the capital from Little Rock in 1993 to shape the new administration but also of the seamy, semi-tropical political subculture from which he and they sprang.

He understands how lucky Bill Clinton has been, noting correctly that he would never have survived the New Hampshire primary if the opposition had not been so feeble—if Bob Kerrey had run a competent campaign, or if Mario Cuomo or Al Gore had summoned the nerve to run.

And he understands how Bill Clinton's lack of discipline (in matters sexual as well as political) is balanced by an indomitable will that has carried him through a career filled with crises.

Walker's book takes the reader into the Clinton political headquarters during the 1992 campaign, disclosing details about staff and strate-

gy that show how the Presidency won. It reports on the tug-of-war that developed between Clinton's Oxford and Little Rock friends on the one hand and his political advisers on the other, and how James Carville, the Cajun populist, had to watch the inauguration not from a choice seat but on television at home.

That was a telling moment: the first days of the administration were a mess partly because the Arkansas mafia failed to protect the new President from political boobytraps.

But this is a book that specializes in giving Clinton the benefit of the doubt. That is foretold in the introduction, where Walker laments his friendship with Sidney Blumenthal, Special Political Correspondent for The New Yorker and a cheer leader for the Clintons. So while extended treatment is given here to the Whitewater affair and other scandals, relatively little is made of the Clinton's bobbing and weaving as they sought to cover up. It is not necessary to embrace far-fetched theories regard-



ing Vince Foster's death to see that both Clintons, and especially the President, are notably economical with the truth, or that they are inept judges of political associates.

It was surely the President's fault, not just the poisonous gift of fate, that so many people in his administration went to jail or faced investigation by special prosecutors. Walker tends to blame it on a conspiracy by right-wing clemens in the press.

More important, I think, Walker misunderstands the state of play in the Democratic Party and the electorate as a whole. "The old Democrats," he writes, "had

broadly achieved what they set out to do, and had for a generation suffered from a general bafflement about what to do next." Well, no. They had not solved the problem of poverty in America, nor the problem of racism, to choose two of the great goals of "old Democrats" like John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, and they had alienated the voters in trying. The problems remained, but they had neither the means nor new ideas to solve them.

At times, Clinton understands this as in his campaign for re-election, which has been marked by only the most modest new initiatives and, notably, by his acceptance of a welfare "reform" that has infuriated many liberal backers. At times he does not, as when he and Hillary Clinton grossly overestimated the force of his electoral mandate, chose a largely discredited social engineer named Ira Magaziner to help them reform the nation's health care system and came up with a plan so preposterously complicated that even the President could not fathom it. It failed not because of nefarious entrenched interests or a hostile press but because the Clintons overreached.

His (their) comeback began only when Dick Morris came back on board and the President scaled down his plans.

The Times

Middle East Beat

Peace focus

All THE terminologies connected to peace have varied from the peace process, the peace of the brave, and peace building. However, the most important terminology is still not expected to be heard for sometime, and that is peace implementation. But what is the point of having peace if its components will not be implemented?

There is no doubt that there goodwill among the parties who signed peace agreements with each other, and enough sincerity among the parties who are still negotiating for peace to have a successful conclusion. The fact remains that the imbalance on the various tracks in terms of achieving peace does not detract from the interdependent and connected nature of peace between the Arabs and Israel.

The Syrians have made it clear that agreement cannot be reached without implementing the land for peace formula. The same goes for Lebanon. On all sides there is enough confidence that the peace negotiations will reap a positive result. A new and creative way of thinking must be applied to resolve the deadlock on the Syrian-Palestinian-Israeli tracks, because the bittersweet and the flying accusations will inevitably delay the implementation of the components of the peace agreement once achieved.

This is almost the case between the PNA and Israel. The peace agreement was signed, but the squabbling goes on. Palestinian suspicion towards Israel, and the attempt of the Israeli leadership alternately, to provide an ideological content to its position, has soured relations to an almost breaking-point. Closures, Hebron, security, demonstrations in the streets from all sides, are still a familiar scene for the media, and if this is the peace that the Palestinians and Israelis have dreamt about, then what is there to implement of those components emerging from Oslo?

In this labyrinth of disappointments, a new factor is added to the cauldron of confusion and subterfuge: The remarks made by Mr Netanyahu about the nature of the Palestinian state he wishes to see. He flirts publicly about systems such as those existing in Andorra, and Puerto Rico. Even if the PNA considers this idea for a second, Mr Netanyahu forgets that Andorra for instance, has a very high per capita income, which a nation in the making, struggling under decades of occupation cannot match in any conceivable circumstances.

As for Puerto Rico, Mr Netanyahu remembers that in their recent referendum, the Puerto Ricans decided that they were comfortable in their arrangement with the USA and do not wish to alter the arrangement. This is something of course, the Palestinians rejected through the years of armed struggle, infidelity, and peace agreement. Such ideas have floated around in academic text books many years ago, but have been laid to rest.

For Jordan, much happened since the signature of the peace agreement with Israel. Normal relations have proceeded comfortably, and various exchanges in many fields took place. However, the main components of our peace treaty with Israel have not been implemented yet and we would be unfair, if we were to blame our short comings for this.

The signals from Israel have been somewhat confusing regarding the desired relationship within the peace agreement and the implementation of its clauses. Having a warm peace or a cold one, is not our sole responsibility in this bilateral relations, and the new administration in Israel has to clarify its intentions regarding its own understanding of peace building.

Palestine Post

Israeli land confiscation continues

On Sunday 10 November, the Israeli army shot and killed 36-year-old, Amrallah Hassan, a Palestinian from Nablus village and injured 12 other Palestinians during a protest against Israeli land confiscation. The protest was organized by the Land Defense Committee in Ramallah against continued Israeli confiscations of Palestinian land. The Israeli government intends to use the confiscated Palestinian land to expand Jewish settlements as part of its overall strategy to encircle Ramallah with Jewish settlements. The protest focused on the confiscation of Palestinian land from Der Qadees which will be used to expand the ultra-orthodox Jewish settlement of Kiryat Sefer. It was only a few weeks ago that the Israeli government gave approval for the expansion to begin.

According to affidavits taken by fieldworkers working for the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAWE), witnesses stated that early in the morning of 10 November, Israeli soldiers began concentrating on the borders of Der Qadees village near Ramallah where the protest was set to be held. When the villagers started their protest soldiers began to shoot tear gas bombs and rubber bullets. Despite the tear gas and bullets, the protesters continued their demonstration.

The Israeli soldiers then began to shoot live ammunition bullets at close range at the demonstrators. Mr Amrallah was killed instantly by a bullet that was fired at him only 12 meters away. The bullet penetrated his heart and killed him. Twelve other Palestinians were injured from the live ammunition and rubber bullets.

Mr Amrallah's land was among the land to be confiscated. He submitted a petition to the Israeli court to cancel the confiscation order but to no avail. Family members said that Mr Amrallah was shocked when he heard that the government was taking his land to expand the Kiryat Sefer settlement.

LAWE believes that the Israeli action violates the right of all free persons to protest and speak out against government actions. It notes that this right is especially relevant in Der Qadees where the Israeli government confiscated Palestinian land and simply "gave it away" to Israeli citizens. The Israeli actions are contradictory to her commitment three years ago to the Declaration of Principles that was signed three years ago.

Israeli businessmen worry about Netanyahu economic policies

The future of the peace process in the Middle East is still ambiguous because of the inability to reach a final agreement between Palestinian and Israeli negotiators on the thorny issue of Hebron.

Through foreign investment to Israel significant increases since the Palestinian-Israeli peace accords that were signed in 1993, still some foreign investors continue to be cautious. Others are more enthusiastic and are still willing to bet on the Israeli economy particularly communication and advanced technology sectors.

Israel businessmen seem to be divided on the economic policies of their prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr Benjamin John, the owner of an Israeli firm says that the Israeli economy is going through a sceptical period. However, he says that this will change if Israel reaches an agreement with the Palestinians on redeployment to Hebron.

Analysts indicate that Netanyahu needs to establish political stability in order to deal with the economy that is moving very slowly. The Israeli economy is suffering because an increase in the national budget and shortage in currency reserves.



Netanyahu

US to aid African regimes in bid to oust Sudanese government

By David B. Ottaway
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

WASHINGTON—The US government is about to send military aid to three African countries collaborating to help overthrow the Islamic regime in Sudan, regarded in Washington as a key sponsor of international terrorism, according to the Clinton administration and congressional officials.

Nearly \$20 million in surplus US military equipment will be sent to Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda, the officials said, adding that the three countries support Sudanese opposition groups preparing a joint offensive to topple the Khartoum government.

The officials said all of the military aid is non-lethal and defensive, and includes radios, uniforms, boots and tents. But congressional and Pentagon sources said this could be expanded to include rifles and other weapons.

US officials also deny that the equipment is specifically earmarked for the Sudanese rebels, despite the declared anti-Khartoum policies of the recipient governments. "We are assisting these governments in their own defense. Nothing we are giving them is to be used for any other purpose," said George E. Moose, assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

But congressional sources and several African affairs experts expressed skepticism that the equipment will be kept

from rebel ranks. Much of the aid consists of basic items suitable for outfitting a guerrilla force, these sources noted.

The decision to provide military aid to the three African nations reflects growing administration anger at Sudan, which the White House considers second only to Iran as a staging ground for international terrorism and for Islamic extremists involved in subverting neighboring, pro-US governments.

Administration officials said no formal Presidential Decision Directive was issued by the White House spelling out a new strategy toward Sudan. Under US law, any operation intended to subvert a foreign government must be preceded by a presidential "finding." It is unclear whether such a measure has been invoked in this case.

But top administration officials met several times over the last year to discuss policy toward Sudan's militant Islamic rulers, and the officials made "a very deliberate policy decision" to adopt a tougher line, according to one senior administration official. President Clinton was involved in some of these discussions, the official added.

The administration's attitude toward Sudan hardened after evidence emerged of its support for the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June 1995. Washington sought, and obtained in April, a UN reso-

By Kenneth J. Cooper and
Kamran Khan
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—The caretaker government of Pakistan said last Sunday that it is preparing criminal charges against former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and her husband in connection with the avalanche of corruption allegations that were part of the political crisis leading to her ouster.

Although in dismissing Bhutto, President Farooq Leghari cited the widespread allegations that Bhutto and her husband were involved in corruption, Sunday's statement was the first indication that the government plans formal charges that could result in imprisonment, and that the charges specifically include Bhutto.

Leghari's order dissolving Bhutto's government last Tuesday referred to alleged "corruption, nepotism and violation of rules," without giving details. Government investigators said in interviews that they are questioning Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, about suspected corruption in government financial institutions, state-run enterprises and international contracts for power generation and defense procurement.

Zardari's tax returns do not indicate he has accumulated more wealth during his wife's tenure. No concrete evidence has yet been presented of what actions he may have taken to benefit himself or others, or how much money, if any, he made. But investigators said that because of a series of irregular financial transactions involving Zardari or his associates while he was Bhutto's business emissary and later investments minister, they are looking into whether he transferred money from bribes and kickbacks into bank accounts and property purchases, primarily in Europe.

Bhutto filed a petition in Lahore High Court claiming Zardari was illegally detained. Pakistan's official APP news agency said Zardari, whom Pakistanis nicknamed "boss" because of his extensive unofficial powers, was placed in what authorities called preventive detention last week when the government was dismissed.

Interim Prime Minister Meraj Khalid told a news conference last Sunday that the charges will be placed soon. Asked if they would include criminal charges, he said: "All kinds of charges." Elections have been set for 3 February.

But the administration concluded earlier this fall that Sudan was taking only "tactical" and "cosmetic" steps to end support for terrorism in order to avoid further UN sanctions, officials said. The CIA and the National Security Council have been the driving forces behind the tougher line, congressional and administration sources said.

US officials now refer to Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda as "front-line states" because of their location on Sudan's borders and their role in helping Washington contain Khartoum. Ethiopia is budgeted to receive \$106 million in total US assistance during the current fiscal year, displacing South Africa as the largest single sub-Saharan recipient.

Once a close American ally, Ethiopia joined the Soviet camp in 1977 and remained there until 1991, when its communist government was ousted after a long civil war. The present Ethiopian government, led by Meles Zenawi, has sought to restore close security ties with Washington and become the cornerstone for US policy in the region known as the Horn of Africa.

US officials estimate that more than 3,000 Sudanese rebels are marshaling in Eritrea for a joint offensive that is expected to concentrate on cutting the vital road running from Khartoum to Port Sudan.

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Charges being prepared against Bhutto, husband

Investigations said in interviews that they are interrogating Zardari, 43, about whether or not he collected bribes and kickbacks through friends and political allies he helped reach high positions in a range of state-run businesses. No specific charges have been filed against Zardari, who under a preventive detention law can be held for 90 days or longer without being charged with specific crimes.

Bhutto, who had made corruption the biggest issue in her successful 1993 election campaign, characterized her husband's arrest as political persecution on Wednesday and dismissed the corruption charges as "lies, lies, lies." She promised to issue a detailed response to Leghari's accusations within a week.

This is not the first time that Bhutto has defended Zardari against charges of abusing his position for personal gain. He became a target of corruption inquiries after her 1990 dismissal and was arrested in connection with extortion and illegal bank loan cases. He was eventually cleared of the charges.

Few doubt that serious charges will be brought against him this time, and his name has even been linked to the September killing of Bhutto's estranged brother, Murtaza Bhutto, by police in Karachi. He has denied all the allegations against him.

Two instances of suspected corruption involving Zardari are pending before Pakistan's Supreme Court: the sales of shares in state-run Pakistan Petroleum Ltd. and a large natural gas reserve in Baluchistan Province to Sadruddin Hashwani, a hotel magnate and friend of Zardari. The cabinet's request last summer to review the sales was ignored by Bhutto.

Senior investigators said they are scrutinizing Zardari's dealings with state-run banks, institutions that finance large development projects and enterprises that produce steel, oversee Karachi's port and sell rice and other commodities.

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Deposed Prime Minister BENAZIR BHUTTO of Pakistan

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هكذا من الأصل

Cairo Middle East Summit convened amidst cautions and uncertainties

LAST TUESDAY 12 November, the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak opened in Cairo the 19th Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit, titled "Peace and economic development."

More than 3000 participants from 85 delegations representing Arab and other countries are taking part in this event which runs until Thursday 14 November. The American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, who is in the process of resigning his post, is attending in addition to senior officials from Arab countries, the United States, Russia, Japan, China and

other countries from Europe and Asia.

The 85-member Jordanian delegation is led by Mr Ali Abul Raghib, the minister of commerce and industry. Jordan is submitting 25 projects to be discussed at a total cost of \$4 billion. These ventures focus on infrastructure and projects in Jordan Valley. Jordan businessmen are also discussing means of carrying out investment enterprises with their Egyptian counterparts.

The highest delegation is the American one which comprises 125 participants representing 60 American concerns. The EU has

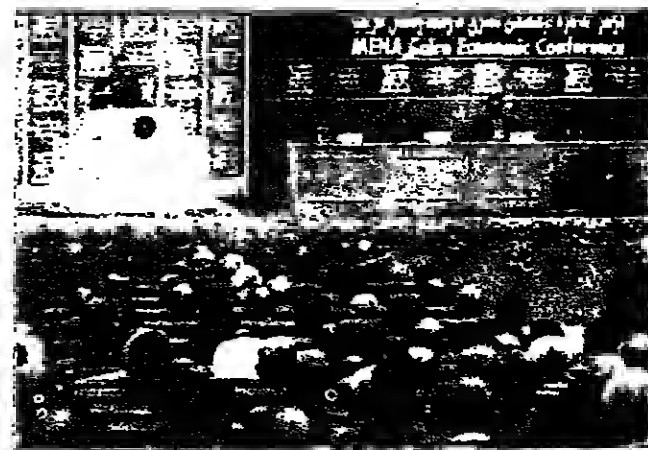
95 participants and the Israeli delegation alone has 100 participants including officials and businessmen.

The general atmosphere in Cairo indicates that the climate at this conference is completely different from the optimistic mood that characterized the first Casablanca and then Amman economic summits.

The Israeli right-wing Likud government headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is putting obstacles towards a further progress in the peace process. Such a hardline policy which insists on humiliating Palestinians and building more settlements in Palestinian territories is reflecting itself on the mood of the conference.

Before the convening of the summit, observers expected the talks to be a theatre for "hot debate" between the Israelis and the Arabs who believe in peace and act according to their strong conviction that peace and stability are a prerequisite for economic coordination and cooperation.

Any economic cooperation or normalization with Israel cannot be interpreted as an abstract issue that can be achieved on parallel side with the peace process. Stability and comprehensive peace are fundamental to any economic structure. Thus, dialogue at the conference is subdued with political frictions overriding the nitty gritty aspects of the economic side of the peace process. The region is not ready to start normalization with Israel and enter into 285 members. The Gulf states turn unless Israel



adheres to the peace commitments.

However, Egypt is viewing the conference as a good opportunity for Arab and foreign businessmen to meet and discuss issues of mutual concern. Dr Osama El Baz, the first undersecretary at the ministry of foreign affairs and a special adviser to president Mubarak, says that the "Cairo Summit" is about business not only in the Middle East but also in the whole world. "Its target is to promote and enhance investments and joint ventures in the region. It will also help activate the Arab viewpoint thereby strong coordination thereby maintaining strong pressure on Israel."

"Egypt is keen to consolidate its economic ties with Jordan after the free trade agreement was signed between the two countries," says Mr Raouf Sa'ada, an assistant to the Egyptian foreign

minister.

They are concerned with pushing the peace process forward and aim at establishing stability which is considered fundamental for ventures and foreign enterprises in the area.

The American position as expressed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Joan Spero considers the peace process as the cornerstone of the US foreign policy in the Middle East.

But harsh days were expressed in the first day of the summit. The Israeli Foreign Minister, David Levy, quickly withdrew from the opening session when the organizers refused his request to be allowed to deliver a speech. Sources say that the Israeli delegation was angry at what they perceived as indirect criticism by the head of the Jordanian delegation Mr Ali Abul Raghib, to Israeli delay in the peace talks.

Banking conference on 2 December

UNDER THE title "The Role of Banks and Financial Institutions in Investment," the Arab Academy for Banking and Financial Sciences (AABFS) will hold its sixth annual conference on 2-4 December, in Cairo, Egypt.



This conference is recognized as a leading Arab and international gathering with the participation of officials from many banking and financial institutions across the Arab world.

The conference will give participants an opportunity to follow up on the latest developments in the field of investment and enable business leaders to have an important role in developing new investment initiatives.

The conference will have many objectives. These include:

The focus on the impact of monetary, fiscal, and economic policies on investments; to examine the role of deregulation and privatization on investments; to emphasize the importance of global and regional financial flows with special emphasis on the impact of a single European currency; to discuss the challenges faced by both commercial and specialized banks in the promotion of local investments; to focus on the scope of both Islamic and comprehensive (universal) banks in fostering investment activity.

Also, it will seek to evaluate the importance of investment guarantees and the role of the International Finance Corporation in private investment.

Other objectives stress the significance of introducing conveniences in the Arab capital markets and determine the influence of investment banking and rating agencies on the development of investments. This relates to the role of derivatives and Islamic instruments in investment and the impact of technology on financial market operations.

Top bankers and governors of central banks and corporate executives will also attend the three-day conference that will comprise financial papers given by top financial experts and workshops. The chairmen of pension and mutual funds, investment managers and heads of credit departments of banks will also be attending the meetings.

Trade cooperation enhanced between Jordan and Indonesia

THE JOINT Jordanian-Indonesian Committee completed its meetings at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry which began last Monday. Issues related to enhancing co-operation and increasing the volume of commercial exchange between the two countries were discussed.

Tuesday 12 November was the signing of three agreements to encourage investment, unify the tax systems and see transport between the two countries.

The volume of trade exchange between the two countries could be improved. In 1995 it was about JD 66 million, while in the first eight months of this year it reached JD 46 million. Indonesia wishes to increase its imports from Jordan, especially phosphates, fertilizers and potash.

Officials at the Amman Chamber of Commerce negotiated with the delegation which accompanied Indonesian president Suharto in his visit to Jordan, the feasibility of carrying out joint ventures that depend on Jordanian phosphate and Indonesian rubber.

The delegation's visit which ends today, Thursday, was focused on the possibility of using of the industrial zones in Jordan as a transit point to neighboring countries.

First exhibition of Jordanian products in Ramallah, a unique economic event

THE PARTICIPATION of more than 100 Jordanian companies in the first Jordanian industrial exhibition which was held last week in Ramallah, marks the beginning of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

The exhibition, organized by the Jordanian Export Development Corporation (JEDCO), comes as a first step towards bolstering Jordan-Palestinian commercial ties and the expansion of trade between the two sides.

The exhibition which ends today, Thursday, is a huge popular success with crowds coming from all Palestinian cities.

Farek Al Hadidi, the exhibition's director and assistant director of JEDCO says that the idea of holding this first exhibition in Ramallah accompanied the signing of the Palestinian-Jordanian commercial agreement. It also stems from the strategic importance of the Palestinian market to promote Jordanian exports.

The faced difficulties before staging this exhibition, as Israeli authorities created obstacles and blocked access to the samples of Jordanian products to the Palestinian market," Al

Hadidi said.

In addition, there were some technical difficulties related to the site of the exhibition, he added.

"The exhibition, is boosted by the attendance of a Jordanian delegation headed by Mr Ali Abul Raghib, minister of commerce and industry in addition to representatives from the private sector, the Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Association of Jordanian Businessmen."

The exhibition, which was opened under the patronage of the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, underlined its significance and gave the Jordanian participants strong moral support.

We hope that the exhibition will give Jordanian companies the opportunity to promote their products. Moreover, we expect to sign big contracts to export Jordanian products to the Palestinian market. Al

Hadidi said. He also pointed to the high standards of industrial products, ones that can compete with Israeli products. Ordinary Palestinians as well as businessmen are keen to buy Jordanian products rather than Israeli ones, he continues.



Israeli commodities are too expensive compared to Jordanian products, that's why Palestinians prefer to buy them.

The visitors to the exhibition expressed their admiration of the high quality of the products, particularly carpets, mineral industries, pharmaceuticals and textiles.

One visitor says "we encourage more exhibitions of this

Amman and US sign 'Open Skies' Agreement

AMMAN (Star)—United States Ambassador to Jordan Wesley W. Egan and the Minister of Transport Nasser Al Lawzi, signed a Civil Aviation Agreement, also known as an "Open Skies" agreement between the US and Jordan. Jordan becomes the first country outside Europe to enter into such an agreement.

The Open Skies agreement provides for the complete liberalization of commercial air services between Jordan and the United States. It allows any Jordanian or American carrier to fly from any point in one country through any intermediate point to any point in the

other country and to continue on to another destination. Under the Open Skies regime, the number and prices of flights between the two countries will be similarly unrestricted, thereby giving Jordanian and US airlines complete operating flexibility. The Open Skies agreement also grants US and Jordanian air carriers new rights regarding code-sharing, operational flexibility, non-discrimination in computer reservations systems, intermodal rights and charters.

Open Skies advances US and Jordanian aviation interests and strengthens the already close and friendly relations

between the two countries. It will increase competition in the US-Jordan air services market and will result in more frequent and better scheduled services between Jordan and the United States. Jordan's economy will benefit as the Open Skies Agreement provides improved access to the American market for Jordanian businesses and new venues for tourism promotion in Jordan. This step toward enhanced commercial air service to Jordan is a forward looking and an economic move that will further facilitate foreign investment as it makes Jordan a more convenient and competitive travel destination.

JEDCO, promotes Jordanian industrial products in Baghdad and Beirut

THE JORDANIAN Export Development and Commercial Centers Corporation (JEDCO), always seeks to promote Jordanian products outside the country. The corporation organizes many exhibitions both locally and in the Arab countries.

About 73 Jordanian industrial companies are presently participating in Baghdad's International Show, which started last week and goes on till the middle of this month. These companies are exhibiting a variety of industrial products such as plastics, readymade garments, chemicals, medical products, leatherware, agricultural products, engineering, mineral and construction items.

Such participation in this event enables the participating companies to promote their

products and expand their activities despite the difficulties that Iraq is facing due to the UN sanctions that were imposed on the Iraq since 1990.

Mr Bashar Khasawneh, director of the promotion department at JEDCO, says that the corporation is preparing for the first exhibition of industrial products in Beirut that is due to start on 29 November and last till 8 December.

About 85 Jordanian companies will take part in this exhibition which is the result of the commercial agreement signed between Jordan and Lebanon.

This event is the first direct promotion of Jordanian products in the Lebanese market, says Khasawneh.

The main objective of this exhibition is to boost the vol-

ume of commercial exchange between the two countries. Such a step is seen as the main factor towards economic integration between Jordan and Lebanon. This is essential as the two countries are on their way to sign the free trade agreement which will open the doors for free and complete flow of commodities and services between the two countries.

JEDCO also plans to send an industrial, commercial and investment mission for Adis Ababa in Ethiopia. The mission will hold an industrial fair. The three-day fair will be held between 23-26 December.

There are 20 exhibitions and activities of Jordanian products on the agenda for the next year. Al Khasawneh said.

ARAMEX Sponsor of exhibition in Ramallah

ARAMEX, the international express, cargo and distribution company is the official sponsor and freight forwarder of the first Jordanian Products Exhibition in Ramallah. The exhibition, which is held from 6-14 November, features a variety of products that are made in Jordan.

"We encourage Jordanian industry and are proud to be the sponsors of this exhibition," said Osama Fattaleh, country manager of ARAMEX Jordan.

ARAMEX will handle all the freight forwarding for the exhibited products. It will draw on its experience in handling express, cargo and logistics services between Jordan and the Palestinian authority.

"We have an experience in the West Bank market since 1987 and have been performing courier and freight services for two years there," said Mr Fattaleh.

With offices in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus and Gaza, ARAMEX offers complete service solutions to individuals and businesses in the Palestinian Authority areas.

ARAMEX is one of the region's fastest growing and leading small parcel express and air freight companies. With offices in all major cities around the world ARAMEX offers a range of services including time definite express, or cargo and logistics as well as domestic distribution.

USAir orders up to 400 airbus aircraft

ARLINGTON—USAir Group announced that it has placed orders for up to 400 airbus aircraft to modernize its fleet, reduce operating costs and position itself for a changing competitive environment in the eastern United States.

The company noted that the purchase of the new aircrafts are dependent upon achieving a competitive cost structure and board of directors approval.

Included in the announcement are firm orders for 120 airbus A319s, A320s and A321s, 120 orders to be reconfirmed at a later date and 160 options with open-ended delivery dates. The company has flexibility in selecting among the 122-seat A319s the 144-seat A320 and the 168-seat A321, depending upon projected industry conditions at the time final delivery schedules are set.

The orders are designed to cover the airline's needs for narrow-body aircraft to the year 2009. In an effort to reduce aircraft and engine types, USAir noted that the A320 series will replace at a minimum the DC-9-30s, B-737-200D/G-285 and MF-80S currently in USAir's fleet. The four different engine types will be replaced by single aircraft family with one engine type.

"USAir takes this important and significant step in its effort to become both the airline of choice and an airline with a competitive cost structure," said Chairman and CEO Stephen M. Wolf. "The airbus A319, A320 and A321, with their flexibility, are extremely efficient and environmentally

friendly aircraft that will serve our evolving markets for many years to come."

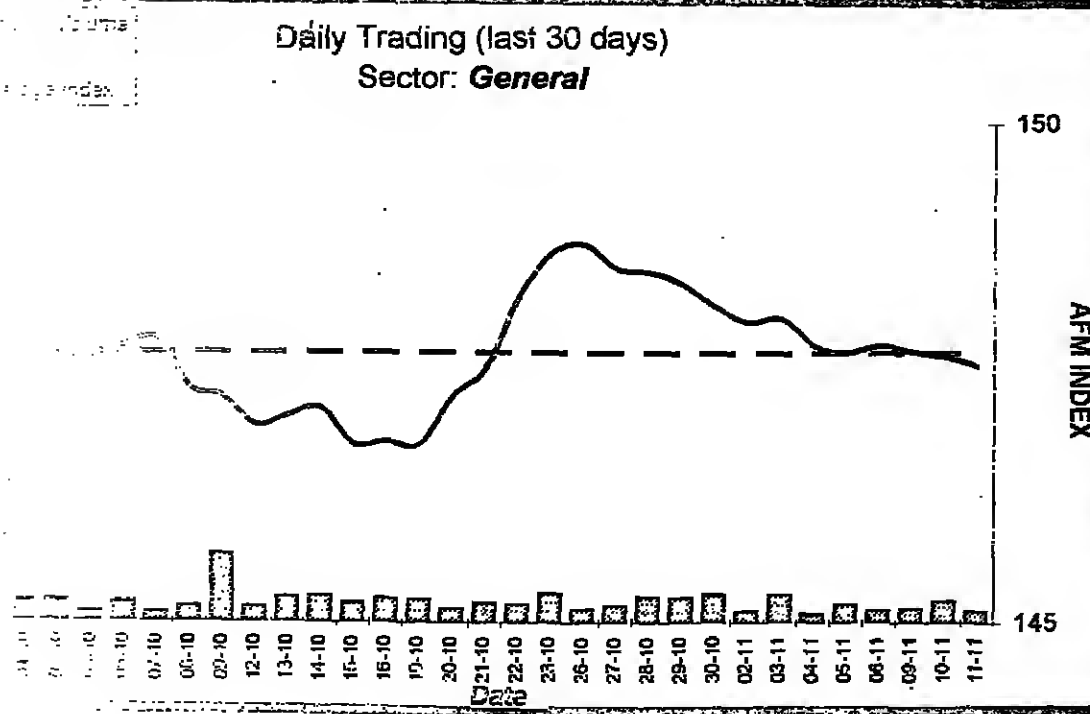
"The market in the eastern US is moving to a lower-price environment that brings with it increased demand. These aircraft, and the flexibility we have in executing orders among aircraft types, will give us cost-efficient planes of the right size at the right time to compete aggressively in this changing market."

Perry L. Hayes, president of the master executive council of the association of flight attendants, said, "this aircraft order makes a dynamic statement about our future. Now we must be equally bold in becoming a competitive airline that is the carrier of choice."

Captain Robert P. Gaudioso, chairman of the master executive council of the air line pilots association, said, "these new aircraft will make our fleet one of the most modern in the world. We are committed in working together with our management to address a competitive strategy that works for USAir and its employees."

William Freiburger, assistant general chairman, district 141 international association of machinists and aerospace workers, said, "this decision by USAir is a major step forward in an effort to become the carrier of choice as we move into the 21st century. The IMAW is committed to continue to pursue our emerging collaborative high performance work organization so we may build on our spirit of cooperation in an effort to effectively address our cost issues."

USAir



Aid agencies debate involvement in Zairian refugee camps

By Stephen Buckley
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

KIGALI, Rwanda—From the start, aid agencies knew the Rwandan refugee crisis of 1994 was an extraordinary one.

There were the numbers: 1.1 million Hutus, Rwanda's ethnic majority, streamed into eastern Zaire in just a few days, seeking to escape reprisals after carrying out a campaign to wipe out the minority Tutsi tribe.

There was the chaos: 40,000 people died, primarily of cholera, after exhausted refugees set up camps of 100,000 to 200,000 people atop volcanic rock around the border town of Goma. About 700,000 Hutu refugees would settle there.

And there was the makeup of the refugees: Many of those in the camps had participated in the genocide. They had been leaders and members of the Hutu army and militias that scuttled into Zaire after a Tutsi-led rebel force stopped the slaughter in Rwanda.

Many relief agencies publicly voiced concern over the appropriateness of helping refugees associated with genocide against Tutsis, but few organizations acted on those concerns.

Now the crisis in eastern Zaire has again exploded, with hundreds of thousands of refugees cut off from aid because of fighting that pits the Zairian military and Hutu militias against the Rwandan army and Zairian Tutsi rebels.

The tragedy has launched an anguished debate among UN agencies and relief workers over whether aid groups exacerbated the refugee crisis by serving in the eastern Zaire camps, which became bases for the Hutu militants.

"Should we have stopped feeding the refugees?" said Brenda Barton, spokeswoman for the World Food Program. "No. We were here to provide food to hungry people...We have a very clear mandate."

Doctors Without Borders,



however, stopped most of its work in the camps in December 1994. "We pulled out because we thought we were being used to fuel another war," said spokeswoman Samantha Bolton.

"We were getting death threats. The militias were intimidating the refugees. They were killing people right in front of us. We had to protest."

For the first few weeks of the 1994 refugee crisis, aid agencies did what they are paid to do. They fed people. They clothed them. They provided water and medicine and shelter.

But prickly issues soon emerged.

Should they supply camps peopled with refugees whose food was being taken by Hutu militants and redistributed?

Should they work in sites where the exiled army had begun rearming itself and using

the camps as military training grounds?

Should they provide medicine to militia members who set up kangaroo courts within the camps and killed fellow refugees in front of aid workers?

Those issues proved especially difficult for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, charged with overall coordination of relief efforts during such crises.

Critics have said the agency did not press hard enough to bring the refugees home, should have moved camps away from Rwanda's borders and should have found ways to separate Hutu militants from legitimate refugees.

In turn, representatives of the agency have charged that UN members knew of the crisis and did nothing. They point out that shortly after the crisis began, the High Commissioner for Refugees

called for an international police force to separate the refugees. The United Nations said no.

"We've tried to say from the beginning that some of these people are not really refugees," said refugee agency spokesman Paul Stromberg. "People knew that was going to be a problem."

Barton, of the World Food Program, said her organization, knowing of the problems of food distribution, tried to give food directly to families, bypassing militant camp leaders. The agency also tried to offer food from within Rwanda to try to lure refugees home.

Since the summer of 1994, the World Food Program generally has provided between 8,000 and 9,000 tons of food per month to the camps.

Barton said separating the refugees was impossible because "if the (Hutu) militiamen aren't

wearing uniforms, how can you even know who they are? And you have to remember that a lot of people in these camps were women and children."

Bolton, of Doctors Without Borders, said the brazenness of the Hutu extremists compelled her organization to act. The Hutus did training exercises in the open. They set up a prison in one camp, where they held dissident refugees and others who opposed them. They killed patients in camp hospitals.

The spokeswoman said that in the end, many of the 100-plus organizations stayed in the camps because the Rwandan crisis filled their coffers.

"Everybody made a lot of money out of Goma," she said. "We were on TV all the time. People were giving us a lot of money. It was a good fund-raiser to say you were working in Goma."

Canadian economy poised for growth; jobless rate lags

By Craig Turner
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

TORONTO—Thanks to three years of government austerity, a tough anti-inflation stance by the central bank and a boom in trade with the United States, the Canadian economy, which not long ago was derided by international investors as similar to that of a banana republic, may be poised for a long-awaited breakthrough.

A variety of recent economic indicators point that way. Government deficits have dropped

dramatically; mortgage and short-term interest rates hit their lowest levels in nearly 40 years; inflation as measured by the consumer price index is hovering at 1.5 percent annually; the trade surplus is expected to exceed last year's record \$20.9 billion, and the Canadian dollar has strengthened against world currencies.

The signs we're seeing are the leading edge of a very strong growth performance at the end of this year and going into next year," said William Robson, an analyst at the C.D. Howe Institute, a Toronto think tank. That echoes conclusions of other economists, such as Paul Summerville of RBC Dominion Securities. In a recent newsletter, Summerville predicted "an extended period of out-performance, probably until the end of the decade."

The International Monetary Fund also has joined in, forecasting 3.2 percent growth next year in Canada, the highest among the Group of Seven major economies.

Indeed the good news seems to turn up every place except where it would be welcome most: the Canadian job market. About one in 10 Canadian workers remains out of a job, an unemployment rate nearly twice as high as in the United States. Not surprisingly, consumer confidence remains depressed and Canadian retailers are bracing

themselves for another bleak holiday season, a December phenomenon here that has become almost as predictable as snow.

Frustrated by what it called "the longest stretch of unemployment above nine percent since the Great Depression," the Canadian Labor Congress this month urged Prime Minister Jean Chretien to abandon his strict deficit-reduction strategy in favor of direct government job programs.

"After six years of high unemployment, it should occur to this government that waiting for the market to create jobs isn't working," said Congress President Bob White.

Meanwhile, those to the right of Chretien's centrist Liberal Party are clamoring for a general tax cut.

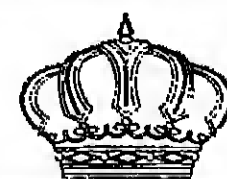
So far, Chretien and Finance Minister Paul Martin have held to their program of gradual deficit reduction mainly through spending cutbacks. The Liberals have backed controversial decreases in support for national health care, unemployment benefits and the arts. Similarly, nine of the country's 10 provinces—all except British Columbia—have erased their deficit or are on target to eliminate it.

This has eroded the biggest source of skepticism about Canada in the world investment community—the persistent inability of previous governments to spend less than they took in.

Optimistic forecasters suggest a rise in employment is just around the corner. Economist Summerville, for example, said joblessness could drop by mid-1997, although he expects job creation to really be felt in 1998.

Summerville argued that Canada is struggling through a fundamental economic restructuring, shifting focus from personal and government consumption to investment and world trade. As evidence, he noted that exports as a share of gross domestic product have risen from 28 percent to 42 percent in the last six years. More than 80 percent of that trade is with the United States. ■

Congratulations



Kan Zaman Tourist Village & Taybet Zaman Hotel & Resort

Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday



Royal Automobile Club of Jordan

Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday



Jordan Industrial Estates

Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday



Jordan Phosphate Mines

Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday



Jordan Tobacco Co.

Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday



Jordan Electric Shareholding Co.

Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday



T. Gargour & Fils

Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday



Jordan Petroleum Co.

Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday

Jordan Exports Development Corporation

Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday



Ammon Shipping & Transport

Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday

Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature



Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday

Munir Sukhtian Group



Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday

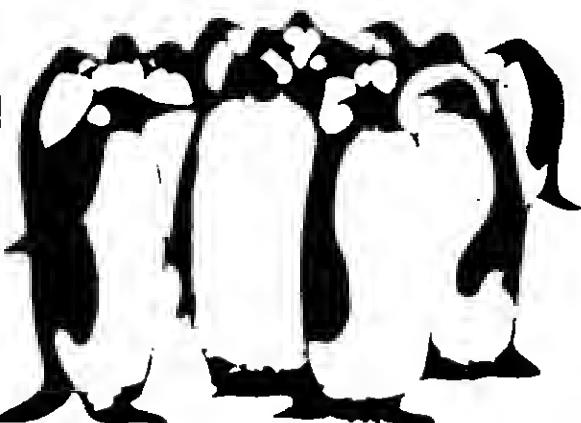


Arab Potash Co. Ltd.

Presents its best wishes to His Majesty

King Hussein
on his birthday

AROUND TOWN



Einstein's private letters on auction

• A unique collection of private letters from the century's greatest mind, Albert Einstein, will go on auction at Christie's New York on 25 November. The letters were found in a Los Angeles bank vault in 1986 and are the property of the Einstein Family Correspondence Trust. They are being sold in order to benefit the trust.



Basma Asfur

Paris in eyes of Jordanian photographer

By Anca De Maio
Special to The Star

Four years ago Basma Asfur had the inspiration to photograph the streets of Paris. What made her look at things with an aesthetic eye was the multitude of new facets provided by everyday life in this unique urban universe. "I found the posters on the walls of buildings particularly beautiful and potentially 'artistic,'" she declares. "They adorn the city in a very original way and change its looks constantly." The outcome of Asfur's visual experience is her photography exhibition *Doubles Regards* which is currently displayed at the French Cultural Center.

It is in the lifestyle and spirit of Paris that Asfur found the inspiration to approach fine-art photography. Light-sensitive emulsions were the medium for her artistic expression. She decided to study photography and learn all the techniques that could enable her to define her own visual language. The history of art was the complement she found necessary for her new formation. (Before moving to France 12 years ago she was involved in science as a bio-chemist).

Her option for humanistic photography was clear from the beginning. "I've never liked studio work or portraits," she points out, "what has always concerned me was simply dealing with real life in an artistic way."

"I love going out in the street and observe what is going on, look for things that might interest me, contemplate the setting and view, all possible compositions from different angles and at various moments of the day. If I like a place I return to it," she said.

Asfur adds that "it takes time to take a picture, on the one hand because I employ sunlight as a flash, and on the other because, when all aspects are calculated, I have to wait for the moving uncontrollable element of my constructions—that is the people. It's the most exciting and mysterious part of my image-making. It is always a great surprise to see who will pass before the lens."

The *Doubles Regards* solo exhibition is the result of Asfur's four-year work revealing an intimate glimpse of everyday life in Paris. Her collection of 62 black-and-white photographs is a tempting invitation to a virtual autumn walk in the streets of the French capital.

Carpeted with maple leaves, the exhibition hall is the privileged place where the visitor is magically turned into an anonymous Paris passer-by. Wasted metro tickets, a recent phone card, a *Pariscope* weekly memento, the artist's own identity card and photo agenda are set at one's disposal as undeniable evidence of a real experience.

There is no such thing as making a sight-seeing tour. It is rather an adventure into the arbitrary immediacy of life itself. Asfur's aesthetics reject ellipsis of any kind. Even the photos entitled *Tour Eiffel* or *Pyramide du Louvre* advocate the insignificant versus the famous, the frag-

ment against the whole. Accredited values are reduced to their names, whereas the coexisting banal detail is pushed to the fore and converted into the protagonist of the picture. It is not the so much photographed Eiffel Tower that counts in any of the three images wearing its name. First, a touristic bus and a spraying water jet, a window frame and a building site appear in the picture against the blurred outline of the tower for part of it in a fresh and seemingly unstructured way as if in a random spontaneous "snapshot."

The humble subject-matter, be it either a garbage bin, a phone booth, a broken window, a graffiti on a wall or a sports ground, a coffee shop table, a metro station, a vacant beach, a bus; these acquire artistic meaning within the composition it belongs to.

"Balance" is a compositional key term of Asfur's photography. "I never forget one corner of the picture," she said. Most of her photos are geometrically balanced. She basically applies the sober pattern of the square as in the *Tennis player at Beaugrenelle* and *Graffiti N. Louvre*. I has an evident triangle-structured internal organization that harmoniously combines the image of the small glass pyramid, the corner of the fountain and the reflection of the pyramid on the surface of the water.

The irregular element that does not abide by any geometric rules is generally expressed by curved lines. Thanks to its presence, the intervening of different levels and registers becomes more complex and the final "puzzle" even more exciting.

As an expression of her ancestral taste for calligraphy, Asfur's camera enhances the beauty of the winding line of graffiti or any other form that resembles writing (wrought iron ornaments, light effects, etc.). An example of masterful superposition, the *Carroussel du Louvre* makes a mysterious allusion to cuneiform writing.

Chronologically, the evolution of Asfur's art



shows a shift from reflected, indirect and discreet images (1993-1994) to a very clear, realistic and "straight" ones (1996-1998). "The tendency is to remove the surplus and to reduce the picture to as little as the simple real thing and its extra meaning," she explains. The balance between feeling and reason, just like in the French Baroque music that she adores, is to be preserved in her future work.

The present exhibition marks a turning point in her artistic trajectory and life itinerary. Moving from Paris to Beirut, Asfur has just closed a chapter and is opening a new one. "Every city is unique and has a soul of its own. I'm eager to walk in the streets of Beirut and see what is going on there." So next exhibition—Beirut! ■

A night of Polish music at RCC

By Star Staff Writer

One can call the Polish musical evening that was held at the Royal Cultural Center last Thursday as truly enchanting. On the occasion of the Independence Day of Poland, the Polish Embassy in Amman, in cooperation with Freddy For Music staged what can only be described as a musical extravaganza.

The audience was introduced to a breathtaking event, starting with the musical masterpieces of Frederick Chopin, to opera and finally to the clarinet. What was interesting was that most of the pieces were played by local talent. Oksana Musleh played the piano while Svetlana Koppavina sang opera. Romuald Golebowski was especially flown in from Poland to delight the audience with the clarinet.

Mrs Musleh guide them through a wonderful journey of the great pieces of the 19th century musician Chopin. These were like the rest of the evening of short arias.

Again we were introduced in such a short time to the vast breadth of the music of Chopin. The mellow, easygoing classical tunes were accompanied by the quick running notes of the piano, almost taken us into a musical gala of extraordinary proportion. Mrs Musleh, who is a musical teacher at Freddy captured the event so well, that it almost brought the audience into another time dimension.

The second part of the concert was devoted to

the opera of Stanislaw Moniuszko. Born in 1819, he came to be considered as an outstanding composer and on par with major European composers of the 19 century.

Mrs Koppavina relived his opera in the most beautiful way giving a touch that is so rare in Amman to see. Mary Dawoud introduced each operatic arias explaining what exactly they were about.

The finale to the evening was provided by Golebowski playing the clarinet. This is indeed a rare treat. Clarinet players are missed despite the fact that their music displays a lot of talent and showmanship. It gave a musical journey the necessary diversity that is so characteristic of Polish music.

All three players displayed excessive professionalism having studied the art of music. Koppavina have studied in Russia at the country's

most prestigious musical institutions and previously taught at the National Music Conservatory and the University of Jordan. Golebowski teaches music at the Warsaw Conservatory. ■



Rumors

By Fawzi Shalabi

Every question has an answer one, two, three or even four no secret's been any more you can face it without despair rumors spreading like the cancer like the fire in heaps of hay everybody has the desire, to listen and desire to say keep an ear and a tongue spare for the unceasing talk machine people are rings of a long chain each ear is tailed by a tongue A head to tail, A head to tail. Put these things in a boat to sail in on ocean of a fake tale and be a creator Sinsbad try not always to become sure add an event to the story does it a sand affect to shore? A drop of water flood a sea? Rumor is a war of scandal that gives birth to the war of wars never has it scored a final till tongues and ears have been seen thrown on the street and outside doors.

Rumor is like a Neutron bomb Penetrates fences doors and walls Sparring every thing to the life But the human life rumor calls.

Ibex Nubiana released into Al Mujib Wildlife Reserve

AMMAN (Star)—The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is releasing the Nubian ibex *Capra ibex nubiana* into the Mujib Wildlife Reserve. The project was launched last October at the onset of the ibex rutting (breeding) season.

The Nubian ibex is a stocky build caprid (1.10-1.42cm) with conspicuous black and white markings on the legs strongly contrasting with the white patches on knees and above the hooves. Its general coat color is sandy rufous fawn which contrasts with the white on thighs, hindquarters, belly and chest, and the back of front/hind legs.

Significant sex differences exist between the male and female. Adult males are twice as large as females and weigh 50-80kg and have a darker pelage than females. In addition, males have thick set, curved and prominently ridged horns 38-52cm.

The *Capra ibex nubiana* occurs in a variety of habitats ranging from low altitude dissected escarpments with annual precipitation not more than 50mm to forested mountains up to 2600m above sea level and high annual rainfall (350mm) in Asir, Saudi Arabia.

The main natural predator of the Nubian ibex is the leopard, who is also closely associated with mountain habitats. Wolves may prey on ibex kids and sickly individuals, whereas hyena have also been known to

take the occasional ibex.

Animal feed rations and water are provided to ensure that the ibex that returns to the enclosure have adequate food supplies. It is hoped that the captive-raised ibex will quickly learn to feed on natural vegetation and follow their relatives to their resting sites and breeding grounds.

A survey sponsored by the RSCN in Mujib Wildlife Reserve found some 70-100 wild ibex presently inhabit the reserve. They are restricted to the impenetrable rugged sandstone massifs, which provide security against predators and man. The population has been extensively hunted to recent decades and the Mujib population has suffered similarly. Other threats to the wild ibex are habitat destruction and competition over food by Livestock.

The main issue in the project was whether to supplement the existing wild ibex population in Mujib Wildlife Reserve with captive-born individuals or release them at sites that were historically occupied by ibex.

The second alternative, to reintroduce ibex on sites within their historical range requires creating infrastructure.

RSCN is focussing its limited resources on protecting core populations in its reserves and thus the Conservation Com-



mittee opted for the restocking in Mujib.

The ibex received vaccinations and was equipped with radio-collars. These are transmitters emitting a radio frequency signal that can be picked up with highly advanced receiver equipment (telemetry). This technique allows researchers to locate the ibex after release and monitor their movements. ■

A novelist and artist at Darat Al Funun

AMMAN (Star)—Darat Al Funun is hosting the famous novelist Abd Al Rahman Munif next Sunday. He is signing his latest book *The Journey of Life and Art*.

Munif will also be participating in the opening of the retrospective exhibition by the Syrian artist Marwan Kassab-Bachi. The exhibition is held by Darat Al Funun in cooperation with Attasi Gallery in Damascus. It will run until 10 December. ■



AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ *Timeless Weaving and New Creations*, running at the Jordan Crafts Development Center (Al Aydi).

■ *Hand and Hammer*, at Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, continues till 30 November.

■ *Doubles Regards* by Basma Asfur, at the French Cultural Center, continues till 28 November.

■ Exhibition and Sale of lithographs, old maps and postcards and photographs on Jerusalem, Chinese paintings, at Um El Kunder, right off the Airport highway on the way to Ara-

bian Horse Club, first left at the top of the hill, Friday 15 November from 11 am onwards. Tel: 664805

Films

■ *Le Chai*, at the French Cultural Center, 18 November at 8:30 pm.

■ *Return to Treasure Island* at the British Council, 19 November at 5:00 pm.

Fairs

■ *University Fair* by AMI-DEAST at the Marriott Hotel, Al Waha Ballroom, 16 November from 5-8 pm. Organized by Linden Educational Services.

SCRAPBOOK

By Bilal Hijawi

Fighting Gershwin on the Potomac

WASHINGTON—As I sip on this delicate Cabernet Sauvignon, my head turns slowly scanning this magnificent condominium and its dark hardwood floor in Washington, DC. Indeed, the wine enhances the taste of the sharp cheddar working my taste buds. I decided that tonight seems perfect for savoring a taste of my long-lost peaceful moods.

After two weeks of a hectic search for the right apartment, I end up in this Woodley Park Zoo neighborhood. Now, don't read me wrong, the area has much more than the zoo. It has this avant-garde feel against a scattered array of old art-deco buildings. This whole town is perched inside deep woods too; balancing its DC location and flavor with that of the greater suburbia of neighboring Virginia.

On my street, cafes are lined next to each other creating a relaxed Euro-American atmosphere. They offer a multitude of authentic cuisines, served with owners' distinctive smiles that tell stories of struggle by America's immigrants. I always feel this special joy when dining under the nose of immigrant restaurant owners in the US.

Woodley is a true park area. It precisely fits the mood of the time and space of this long business trip. How could it be otherwise; the place resembles an expressionist's landscape, imbued with rustic and green pastels. The surrounding multi-colored leaves indeed recreate the amazing old red brick structures into such a romantic painting.

I'm relaxing now next to this antique rosewood table that comes with this furnished apartment, and Gershwin's tunes resonates in the background. The company of this guy's music adds flesh to what otherwise would have been a skeletal afternoon devoid of imagination. Hail classical music, I think.

Not a worry registers on my mind. My long overdue sense of ease during this journey away from home is absolutely well-deserved. It follows from a frantic month of working extended hours while getting oriented with the system again.

My otherwise emotionally charged evening has somehow turned serene. I won't even think of why this mood has finally settled in. Disturbing the waters of my emotional pond now would be an anathema. I think.

In fact, getting me started on the ocean of anomalies separating us from accomplishing what Americans practise everyday as a matter of daily facts will tie me up in a sailor's knot.

So be it, I instruct myself; and assuredly so, I toss the very thought down my mental wasteland. As the tips of the pianist masterly combine the ivory and ebony keys into the famous Gershwin successions, my emotional files pull together into a relaxed mode again.

It has been raining for two days; nature outside feels clean and healthy. I walk to the window and gaze into the darkening sky; the clouds together roll fast above, after their tears had ceased falling. Now would be a perfect time to go for a stroll. But I have no real intentions of doing so. I'm content with the lingering pine scents that have been shaken out by the recent stormy weather. They're rare emotions that come into play with the swift change of season. It's sad how most of us are blind to the silent narrative of nature. We are awakened only by nature's serious revulsions: when it battles our crowding creations.

It's the second Friday of November, and what a day it has been. A perfect finale to a nerve-racking US presidential race. An event of Olympic magnitude, Clinton has dashed to the widely foretold victory. Hail democrats around the world!

Abruptly, Gershwin's piano tunes, pick up pace. Climbing up the decibel scale fast, they tell me to relax my mind muscles.

A little drop below my window line, the last episode of the street's rush seems to have died away now. You can see that people are arriving home after a long week of work. In the building across from my window, I see a couple in a relaxed setting watching television. In imitation, I too move to switch the noisy box on.

Clinton comes alive with his ever-painted smile and grayish hairline shining from the White House lobby. He's again fielding the never-ending stream of questions from a hoard of noisy reporters. The re-elected President exudes confidence and tries to calm fears about his second tenure in office.

A reporter obligates, "Mr President did you know that no one has done well in a second term since...?" The reporter gets a few laughs from the crowd, while Clinton moves to answer. He says a book he's reading is on this very subject. You think, was that an answer, or what? Such a question deserves such an answer, perhaps. I'm in no news-receptive mood now; and surely enough, I move to switch the box off for the night. I allow the classical tunes into my room again. It must be a Gershwin special this evening. American classics would be perfect to cap two years of an elections season.

I pan my head towards the fairytale-size tree brushing against my window, saluting my rare moments of serenity. In the background, wind-instruments, a piano and various strings hammer down their notes wearisomely, as if each was trying to win territory over the other.

Violins suddenly rise and wedge their way into the virtuoso's magical piano succession. In their unified rhythm, these beautiful string instruments steal away the show. But not for long, as they get flanked by a formation of clarinets that move in gradually and take the higher ground. A few clarinet moments later the piano makes a comeback with the grand unbeatable sound of base keys, thus driving the clarinets to retreat.

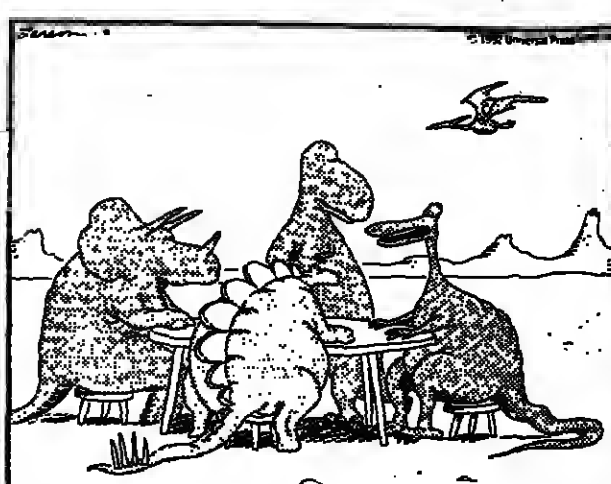
Positions alternate and cannot be held for long durations, as the solo performance by the pianist lasts only a few seconds before the whole orchestra ascends again.

This time it's real politics as instruments seem to play together in great harmony. I wish that the thunderings of each has lost to this magical harmony. Alas it doesn't; Gershwin's finale is dominated by a resurgent attack by clarinets that blow together silencing the rest. Gershwin sings this battle off without a peaceful resolve.

Music never made any political sense to me until today. I think we should color our politics with a good musical sense. I look at that empty wine glass on the table, and wonder if its previous contents have had much effect on my peaceful tendencies. ■

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Well, time for our weekly brain-stem-storming session."

NOVEMBER 1996
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By GARY LARSON

NOVEMBER 1996
A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for
The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



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Criticizing world body is more fun than improving it

Reforming the UN? Think private!

By Andrew Hilton

WHEN BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI became secretary-general of the United Nations five years ago, he was a stop-gap for whom no one felt any great enthusiasm. He was too old (69, now 74) and too wedded to the old Third World, statist rhetoric. Boutros-Ghali did, however, meet most of the bizarre criteria demanded by the UN's heterogeneous and squabbling membership. The clincher was, of course, that he promised not to seek a second term. Now, the lore of office is so powerful that Bout-Bou is on the stump, rounding up support for a second term—much to the chagrin of the US. Although they have a pretty solid case for wanting Boutros-Ghali, the Americans don't help themselves by appearing to dance to the tune set by Congressional know-nothings, like Senator Jesse Helms, who themselves appear to subscribe to the "black helicopter" school of diplomacy. (Far right groups, and Web chat sites, allege the UN runs a fleet of black helicopters to ferry Boutros-Ghali and his cronies around the world.) And, of course, the US plays into its critics' hands by refusing to pony up its share (over 50 percent) of the UN's US\$2.8 billion arrears—mostly for peace-keeping projects of which Washington heartily approves. All that is old hat. The real problem

is that, while practically everyone accepts that the UN is in crisis, nobody is prepared to see this crisis as an opportunity for radical change. Not even Helms. For instance, his recent Foreign Affairs piece takes the basic UN mandate as given: he just dunks (a) that the US has to pick up two much of the tab; (b) that it has too little influence (particularly vis-a-vis insignificant kleptocracies that Helms cannot find on a map); (c) that successive secretary-generals have been allowed to indulge in too much empire building; and (d) that a smaller UN would be a better UN. By and large, he is right, and Joe Cornor, the former Price Waterhouse partner that US President Bill Clinton parachuted into the UN to sort out its finances has done a tolerable job of starting the "downsizing" process. But much more needs to be done.

Everyone has his own favorite tales of UN venality and incompetence. I, for instance, know one UN staffer who arranged a busy schedule of trips to Brazil so that she could get cut price cosmetic surgery. And anyone who has ever dealt with some of the peripheral UN agencies knows that the Secretariat in New York is not even the worst part of an edifice that is ripe for a massive shake-out. But what sort of shake-out? At present, the UN is an organization of 185 nation-states devoted, ostensibly, to improving the lot of mankind by facilitating inter-governmental cooperation. And that is the way most reformers want it to stay. For instance the Ford Foundation, in a recent report of stunning banality on the UN in its second half-century, began with the premise that "the UN of the next century (will) remain an organization of nation-states responding to its members' concerns and needs." But should it? And will it? Earlier this year, UNDP administrator Gus Spaeth was quoted as saying that, "Today, the net worth of the world's 358 richest people is equal to the combined income of the poorest 45 percent of the world's population." Predictably, he saw this as evidence that capitalism has failed. A much more reasonable conclusion is that the nation-state has failed not, that for more than half the world, it is no longer a significant international actor. The UN of today is built on a lie, the lie being that nation-states retain a monopoly role as international actors. But how can that be when there are individual players on Wall Street with a net worth bigger than some UN members? When the average company listed on the New York Stock Exchange has a capitalization bigger than the GNP of many African states?

Who are the real international actors today? This is the key question that prospective reformers of the UN system have completely failed to address. Who takes the key decisions these days? Is it the government of Togo? Or Microsoft? Yemen or Sony? Nauru or Netscape? New Delhi or Tata? If the current problems of the UN, crystallized by the debate over the succession to Boutros-Ghali, are to produce reform, let it be real reform, generating a structure that has genuine relevance for the world we live in. And, incidentally, a reform that puts the UN on a secure financial footing as well. What should this structure look like? That depends on what we want the UN to do. What I think the UN ought to concentrate on is: ▶ Encouraging international cooperation, with a view to improving living standards for the poor ▶ Preserving peace. The latter is particularly tricky since the major military powers (notably the US) are reluctant to have some Iraqi general in a blue hat tell their boys what to do. And there is a very fine line (the location of which no one has agreed on) between maintaining peace and enforcing it; no one, at the moment, is keen on using the UN in the second role. Both goals also depend on who we see as significant actors. Like it or not, nation-states do count at some level. My suggestion would be, therefore, that all national governments should be represented in some UN forum; call it the General Assembly, if you like, for old time's sake. I am also inclined to think that membership of this body should be mandatory, universal and free. There should, however, also be another chamber for national governments where economic clout counts. Call it the Security Council, and limit membership to no more than 25 states. Here, membership would be voluntary—and expensive. My suggestion is that governments who wanted a say would buy votes in the Security Council by contributing to UN finances. If a country wanted a bigger say in how the Council voted, it would just have to put its money where its mouth was. What I envisage is a sort of annual auction: members of the Gen-

5,734,106 Shares



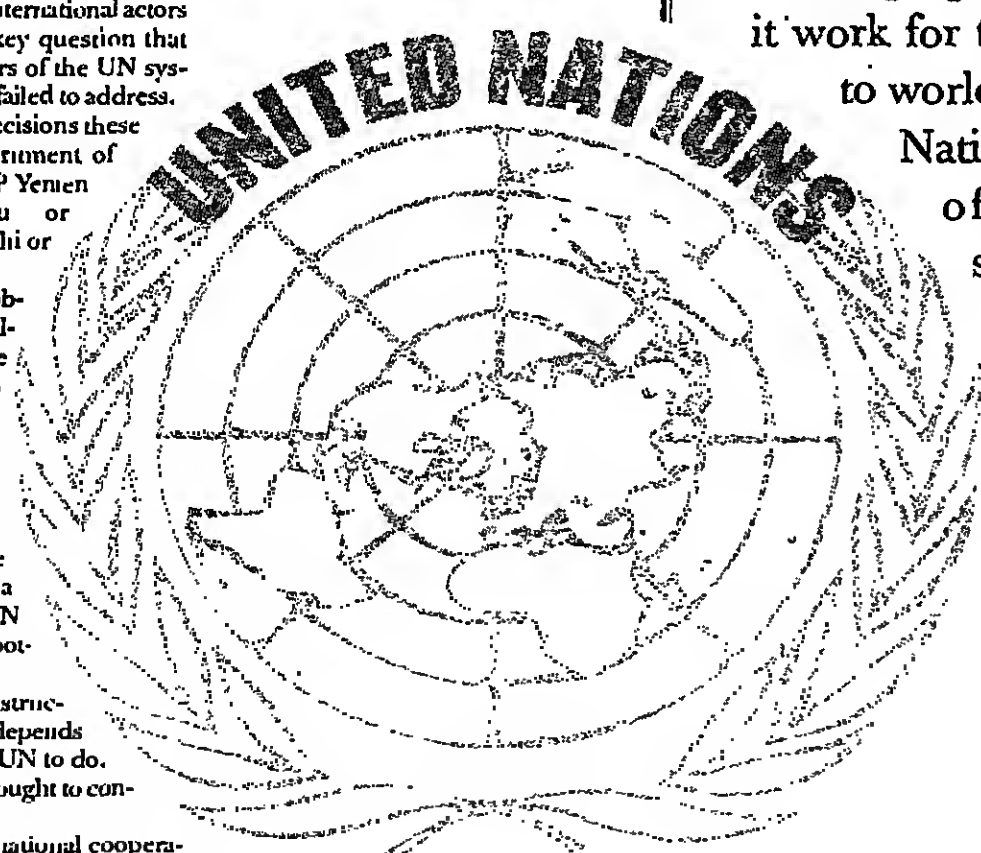
United Nations

United Nations

Common Stock
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Privatization is the global flavor of the month when it comes to setting right inefficient, overstuffed state enterprises. Might it work for the world's most visible example? Responding to worldwide calls for reform of the 50-year-old United Nations, The WorldPaper speculates about the role of privatized UN and its chances of surviving the demands of the free market



Africans ask, "Why make a bad thing worse?" NGO model offers more hope than born-again corporation

By Peter Da Costa

IT'S DIFFICULT FOR Africans to conceive of a privatized United Nations. For most of them, affected in some way by civil wars, natural disasters, pestilence and breakdowns in governance, the UN is the ultimate humanitarian do-gooder—which is the exact opposite of the way they view private corporations. As it is, an increasing number of Africans see the UN, its governing bodies dominated by Northern powers, as beholden to the industrialized nations. They fear that if a reformed UN is tied to something like a corporate charter, it would then operate in similar ways to profit-driven multinationals (such as Shell in Nigeria) whose activities are not seen to be environment—or people—friendly.

While generally opposed to a privatized UN, there are Africans who believe it should be reformed—perhaps along the lines of a non-governmental organization. NGOs already perform many of the functions that Africans tend to associate with the UN: mediation and peace-keeping, food aid, health and development-related programs, family planning and technical assistance to governments. Student journalist Morris Tendayi Nyakulya argues that the UN already works mainly to promote the interests of the North in "creating a conducive environment for the global expansion of capitalism and liberal democracy—Northern concepts from which the North enjoys increasing returns."

Africa are already indebted to the North, and given Africa's relative non-existence in terms of global economic performance, a reformed UN that is a born-again corporation becomes more and more unattractive.

"It is not even conceivable," says Dr. Tayo Fashoyin, Director and Senior Technical Adviser of the UN International Labour Organisation's ARLAC (African Regional Labour Administration Centre). "Just look at the functions that the UN performs, such as peace-keeping which has been a very significant part of the UN in the last decade. I mean how do you privatize an army?"

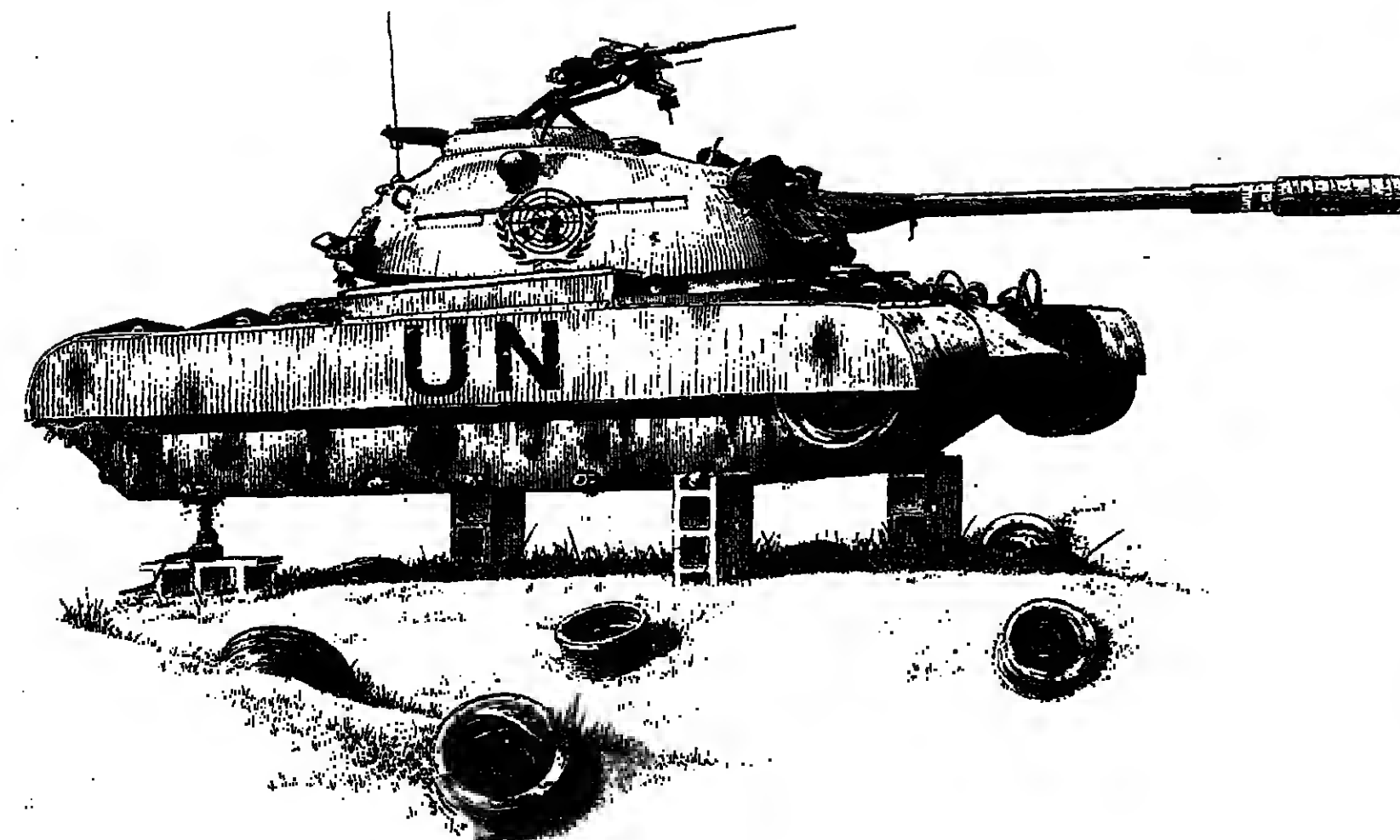
How does one put a price, for example, on solving an internal conflict, or better still, an inter-state conflict such as the one looming between Nigeria and Cameroon over Bakassi? Would a corporation have the moral authority to judge who is violating whose human rights and, with the consent of all parties, mete out punishment accordingly? Or would there be an element of coercion?

How would such a UN operate in peacekeeping situations? "The worst case is Somalia; they do not even have a government. If you help put themselves on their feet, when do you expect them to pay?", asks Fashoyin.

Privatization of the various technical agencies of the UN system would, depending on the agency in question, have a wide variety of effects. In Africa—with African governments as its shareholders as well as its clients—the cost of providing services would logically be passed on

In view of the fact the economies of

▶ BORN-AGAIN PAGE 2



Trip to the future reveals lean—and mean—UN

A double portion of crispy onion rings, 51,900 pink slips and other benefits of privatization

By Daniel Samper

W E FOUND THE NEW president of the United Nations, 35-year old Bill MacGeorge at his office in Portugal. It's located inside an old pier-side warehouse that houses 40 employees attired in green ties and orange blazers. Miniskirts are prohibited, as are loof hair, beards and mustaches. Smoking is only permitted in the restrooms. MacGeorge was appointed to the post by the board of directors at Walt Disney Corporation, the US-based firm which offered the highest bid at the auction to privatize the international organization.

MacGeorge is a graduate of the Harvard Business School, and until eight days ago headed Disney Mao, the theme park in Beijing which opened last year. Previously he had been director of marketing at a cosmetics company.

Q-Are you worried about the responsibilities of your new post?

A-Absolutely not. This is a commercial operation like any other. In two years we will have a balanced budget, and in three the UN will turn a profit.

Q-It's exactly that focus on financial gain which has evoked such strong criticism from Somalia.

A-I don't know who she is, and I don't care what she thinks. What I do know is that I was brought to this organization to make it function efficiently, with a sense of fiscal conservatism and an eye towards economic prosperity. And we will succeed.

Q-What measures have you taken so



Sales executives for a new, privatized United Nations work to keep the peace while enlarging market share

far towards those goals?

A-The first was to sell the buildings in New York and to install ourselves in these old piers. Portugal is a relatively inexpensive country. We negotiated a good tax exemption with the government and are currently remodeling the building.

Q-We see fewer people around...

A-Of course. Before privatization, the UN and its organisms employed close to 52,000 people around the world. It was outrageous! We reduced the staff to a handful of efficient youths. The other 51,960 were surplus bureaucracy.

Q-Do you think the UN can carry out all of its programs with only 40 employees?

A-You are only seeing the central administration, which will be in charge of finances, marketing and concession licenses. The other functions will be out-sourced. We have concessionaires who will be in charge of those programs.

Q-And how much does this out-sourcing cost the UN?

A-Ha! Cost us? Nothing, of course. They pay us to obtain the license. For example, McDonald's won the auction for the World Nutrition Program. We

authorize the use of the UN name and McDonald's pays us a royalty for every product it sells with our logo. They are preparing a basket with a Dag Hammarskjöld Hamburger, a coke, and French fries for only US\$2.99.

Q-These foods are for people in the Third World, without a penny to spare...

A-We've thought of everything; we'll create a credit card, UNCredit, for those without liquid money. The annual fee will be low... initially, at least.

Q-The problem is that there are millions of people in developing countries who couldn't even afford a low annual fee.

A-I am sorry for them. We are not here to offer charity. Our business is to reach them first and at the lowest costs possible. Do you know that the Red Cross, which was acquired by Nestlé (traffic in Swiss relations, you know), offers lunches with milk and cookies for \$3.49. There's no comparison with the Dag Hammarskjöld Hamburger which has a double portion of crispy onion rings.

Q-How will you end wars and secure peace, which is one of the fundamental missions of the UN?

A-I realize that we have a small problem in that respect. You see, in 1992 the

cost of peace keeping operations climbed to US\$2,700 million. And, clearly, since nations and factions went to war knowing that mother UN paid the bill, they were all happy to fight. Not anymore. We believe that warring parties should pay the price of the war. In this way if someone wants to fight a war, they need to hand over some money to cover the costs of negotiating and enforcing peace: afterwards they can declare war. Otherwise we don't participate. The success of private enterprise depends on making each agent responsible for his own expenses.

Q-Will you abandon the assemblies, forums and international conferences?

A-We can't keep thinking in 1948 terms. The Internet allows us to hold all of those forums which previously required transportation, hotels and long discussions. Instead, we will concentrate on creative projects. Note this action figure we will launch this spring. It's the Mini Boutros. You have to purchase the clothes separately. It will compete with the Barbie doll in developing countries. Boutros Boutros-Ghali became famous world-wide thanks to the UN and we will make use of his prestige.

DANIEL SAMPER IS THE WORLD PAPER'S ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR EUROPE

Berg, a development consultant who worked on the blueprint for the new US\$25 billion UN System Wide Special Initiative on Africa, believes the UN should strengthen the co-operation it has built in recent years with NGOs, which "have been so vital to the progress on global issues."

"Corporatizing [the UN] would move in the opposite direction," warns Berg. "After all, corporations are now among the least responsive and least responsible global actors." Ultimately, he argues, the UN's current shareholders simply "have got to be more responsible."

To Berg, "it is incredible that the largest factor in the UN's operations, the US, should be able to have full voting power when it is so strongly in arrears." As of late last month, the superpower owed the UN some \$1.6 billion, out of a total of \$2.8 billion due from member states.

"Africa is told to adjust and is adjusting," notes Berg. "The world needs a market/political discipline for the UN's debtors, too." ■

PETER DA COSTA IS CHIEF OF THE INTER PRESS SERVICE'S BUREAU IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE.

How much would the UN's trademark be worth if it went on the market?

About US\$5 million, says Gordon Smith, president of valuation services at AUS Consultants. The UN has a positive image, but Smith believes that it would be tough to exploit it.

Allan Feldman, President of Leverage Marketing, concurred with Smith's analysis, but offered a more ambitious "what if" figure. "If it could be licensed without much constraint then it could generate in excess of \$1 billion over the years. If they hired us

and gave us carte blanche we could generate a lot of money out of that trademark. The key is being free of those bureaucratic constraints which run contrary to normal business logic," he says.

Alex Batchvarov, an analyst at Moody's in New York, responded to the suggestion the UN trademark be marketed as a collectors item (since both the above estimates would not even cover its debt) by suggesting that "I should be sold as part of a weird currency that is a basket of all the world's currencies; then it would be too difficult for anyone to calculate its real value."

—By Omar Youssef

UN®

THINK PRIVATE!

Continued from page 1

eral Assembly would bid (blind) for one of the 25 seats, which would go to those prepared to pay most. Voting in the Council would then be (as in the IMF and World Bank) on the basis of the "quotas" that had been purchased. As for the problem of arrears, there would be no problem: If you failed to pay the bill when membership fell due, back down to the General Assembly for you, sir.

But that is just for national governments. Since, even in the political sphere, national governments are less and less relevant and important, I would suggest a third "official" chamber.

Call it the Non-national Assembly. Membership (perhaps limited to 100 entities) would be voluntary, and voting rights would again reflect paid-in contributions following a selection process. To be eligible to bid for a seat, bodies would have to be either supra-national or sub-national governments. The European Union, for instance, could buy membership if it wanted: so could New York City, the Gulf Cooperation Council, ASEAN, Padania or Catalonia.

Now we have three chambers representing official political forces. Next would be a body representing private sector economic muscle. Call this one the Economic Council. Again, membership would be voluntary, and would be limited to (say) 150 publicly-quoted corporations. As in the Security Council and Non-national Assembly, a company's voting power would depend on the share of the total budget that it was prepared to pony up—he who pays the piper calls the tune.

Finally, just to buy off liberal angst, we had better have a Social Council for NGOs—trade unions, employers groups, Oxfam, OPEC, etc., etc. Same rules apply; no representation without

taxation. Then, since each chamber would carry equal weight in any UN decision, we would see a massive scramble for coalitions. With four out of five chambers representing entities that paid to get in, however, the dynamics would be very different.

There's also a nifty little free-enterprise wrinkle in my proposal: four out of the five chambers would require members to pay, and to pay up-front. But nothing in my proposal suggests how much they would have to pay. If, say, the UN was felt to be pretty damn useless, corporations who might consider membership of the Economic Council would vote with their checkbooks—and keep them closed. If, on the other hand, they really felt the UN had something to offer (say, in harmonizing intellectual property rights or stopping warring tribes in Kenya from burning down every foreign-owned in-

dustrial plant), they would pay. There are lots of unanswered questions in this proposal. How would UN policies be initiated, for instance? Would each chamber have a right of veto? Would governments ever accept that a UN military force might be funded, in part, by private sector contributions to achieve private sector economic aims?

But it does address the two fundamental problems that the UN faces today: ► How to break out of the comatose mindset which says that (despite all the evidence to the contrary) the only legitimate international actor is a national government, and ► How to ensure that the UN is adequately funded for whatever task it's given, and that an arrearage problem cannot build up.

Think on it; improvements to my proposal will be gratefully received. ■

ANDREW HILTON IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE LONDON-BASED CENTRE FOR FINANCIAL INNOVATION.

With four out of five chambers representing entities that paid to get in, however, the dynamics would be very different

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Don't go private, borrow instead

Embryonic candidate for classic privatization the UN is clearly not. What is equally clear, however, is that it could perform much more efficiently by taking a leaf out of the corporate world's book.

Washington-based development consultant Robert J. Berg offers a list of lessons to be learned from modern corporations, among them:

- Forging strategic alliances both within the UN system and with the private sector and NGOs
- Demand-driven work that is constituent—rather than market-driven
- Merger and acquisition-type approaches, where similar organizations and departments within the UN system can and should be melded and less worthy parts phased out
- Utilize commercial borrowing, now forbidden, but clearly "a needed tool for financial resource management."

Best practices, such as the UN's multi-faceted role in Mozambique's relatively successful transition from conflict to development, also need to be built upon. And on the top job, Berg counsels the need for a corporate-type division of labor, with a Chief Executive Office and Chief Operations Officer. "Let the Secretary-General be the policy guide, but get a solid day-to-day administrator as number two."

—By Peter Da Costa

rum for building global coalitions makes privatization, in the words of Washington-based UN watcher Robert J. Berg, "a lousy idea, from the African viewpoint and anybody else's."

ILO's Fashoyin proposes that rather than destroy the UN's raison-d'être by re-inventing it as a corporation, reforms should be directed at transforming it into something like a global NGO.

What is clear is that it could perform much more efficiently by taking a leaf out of the corporate world's book.

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A WorldPaper White Paper

Masters of the Universe?

Private finance—pension funds, portfolio funds and equity investments in privatized enterprises—dominate the day in the world's emerging markets. Money managers with fiduciary concerns and little awareness of social and cultural conditions are making decisions that affect the economic development of these nations.

This WorldPaper White Paper, derives from the World Times International Inquiry Money Matters: Financing Social Development in the 21st Century. In a lively writing style, Hugh Feyman an experienced financial journalist and current head of Kleinwort Benson Research Asia, addresses the street smart influences of private capital on development.

The WhitePaper also includes The WorldPaper's 2nd "Wealth of Nations Triangle Index" ranking 35 emerging nations by a combination of economic, social environment and information exchange factors.

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- Philadelphia II (tel: 634149): Mission Impossible
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- Concord I (tel: 677420): Independence Day
- Concord II (tel: 677420): Disclosure

Celebs...



● Accompanied by his wife Risa, ex-president of Russia, Mikhail Gorbachev attends a book signing in Harrods of Nightsbridge in order to launch his new book.



Programs on JTV from 16-22 November

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Adventures of Mickey and Donald
- 2:30—Cirque
- 3:00—French Program
- 4:00—Gillette (sports)
- 4:30—Chris Cross
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Futures (Educational)
- 5:15—Blue Heelers
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Something Wilder
- 8:01—Documentary
- 8:30—Prism
- 9:10—Lois and Clark
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—Children of the Dust (Best Seller)
- 11:15—Classic Movie: Yes Giorgio, starring: Luciano Pavarotti and Kathryn Harrold

SUNDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Futurama American Tales
- 2:30—You Bet Your Life
- 3:00—French Program
- 4:00—World Echo (Doc)
- 4:30—The Famous Five
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Documentary
- 5:15—Search and Rescue
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
- 8:00—Auto Classics
- 8:30—Album Show
- 9:10—Great Books

MONDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Dad's Army
- 3:00—French Program
- 4:00—Nature's Inventions
- 4:30—Hey Dad
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:30—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Rosanne
- 8:00—Disaster Chronicle (Doc)
- 8:30—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
- 9:10—The Lazarus Man
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Children of the Dust
- 11:15—Bodies of Evidence

TUESDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Bungle (Cartoon)
- 2:25—Oscar's Orchestra
- 2:40—I Love Lucy
- 3:00—French Program
- 4:00—At the Zoo
- 4:30—My Secret Identity
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Fun with Physics
- 5:15—Road to Avonlea
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Murphy Brown
- 8:00—Magazine Zero-One
- 8:30—Encounter
- 9:10—Star Trek
- 10:00—News at Ten



Who's The Boss, Wednesday at 12:00 pm

- 10:25—China Beach
- 11:15—Mission Impossible
- 12:00—Are You Being Served

WEDNESDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Cirque
- 3:00—French Programs
- 4:00—Earth Revealed
- 4:30—Blizzard Island
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—The Adventurers + Kelly
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—The Four Seasons
- 8:00—Super Stars of Action
- 8:30—Challenges
- 9:10—NBA
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—Bugs (Drama)
- 11:15—Hurt Yu Hart
- 12:00—Who's The Boss

THURSDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Iris
- 2:15—Oride and the Gang
- 2:35—Out of this World
- 3:00—Covington Cross
- 3:30—Feature Film: Big Idea

- 4:30—Continuation of Film
- 5:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 8:30—Material World
- 9:10—Kung Fu
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—Feature Film: Deadly Whispers, starring Tony Danza and Pamela Reed.

FRIDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Iris
- 2:15—Muppet Show
- 2:30—Playabout + Flintstones
- 3:00—See How They Grow
- 3:15—French Programs
- 4:00—Crystal Maze
- 5:00—News Flash
- 5:02—Name Your Adventure
- 5:30—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Blossom
- 8:00—Secret Weapons
- 8:30—Hunter

- 9:10—VR.5, The Virtual Reality (science fiction)
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—Feature Film: Blood Relation, starring: Andre Lachapelle and Mario Saint Amant.

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS SAMEDI

- 3:00—Documentaire: La France aux 1000 villages
- 3:30—Emission jeunesse: Fête des bêtes
- 6:00—Série: Luck
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine: Ziva

DIMANCHE

- 3:00—Emission jeunesse: Cujou
- 3:30—Divertissement: Week-ends spéciaux
- 6:00—Magazine: Les nouvelles ventes
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine: Sports et musique

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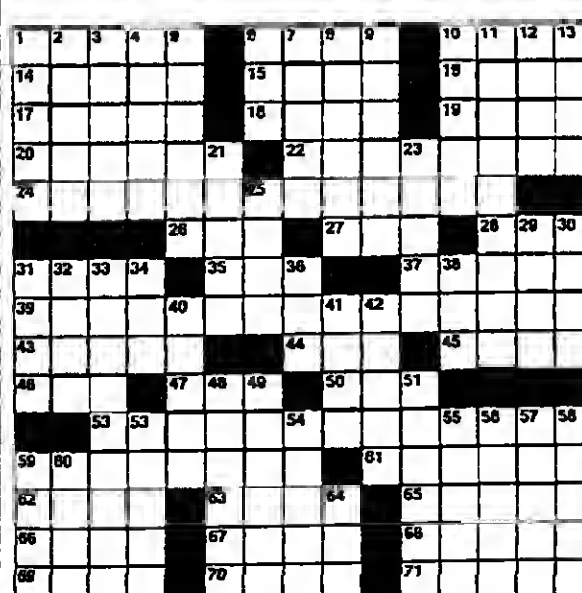
- 3:00—Variétés: L'intégrale
- 3:30—Documentaire: Stéphane Eicher
- 6:00—Magazine: Voyageur gourmet
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine: Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

- 3:00—Dessins animés: Montagne
- 3:15—Magazine: Haute surveillance
- 6:00—Série: La lumière des justes
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine: Alo la terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV

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| 6 Farm | 44 Calendar |
| 10 High school dance | 45 Young adult |
| 14 U.S. president | 46 Pub |
| 15 Lion | 47 Alphabet run |
| 16 Castor's mother | 50 Energy |
| 17 Maternity related | 52 Figure skater |
| 18 Spotted cavity | 53 Forward |
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| 27 Garland | 60 Secured |
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| 31 Bear | 62 Occasion |
| 35 Seance | 63 Russian news agency |
| 37 Present | 64 Secured |
| 38 Figure skater | 65 Bears |
| | 66 Occasion |
| | 67 Russian news agency |
| | 68 Secured |
| | 69 Bears |
| | 70 Occasion |
| | 71 Russian news agency |
| | 72 Secured |
| | 73 Bears |
| | 74 Occasion |
| | 75 Russian news agency |
| | 76 Secured |
| | 77 Bears |
| | 78 Occasion |
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| | 93 Bears |
| | 94 Occasion |
| | 95 Russian news agency |
| | 96 Secured |
| | 97 Bears |
| | 98 Occasion |
| | 99 Russian news agency |
| | 100 Secured |

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: The moon goes from Scorpio into Sagittarius. Sagittarius is a world-class whistleblower, so all kinds of dirt could come out.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Wait to start a big project and it'll go easier. Get your money lined up. Supervisors will be tough as nails. A little humor will help a lot.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Your attention will be diverted to financial matters. Pay bills, balance the checkbook and apply for a loan.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Finish up old business so you'll have time for a friendly competition. Face the facts. Pool resources with a friend to get an expensive item you both want.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Renew an old friendship. Your workload increases and stays intense for a while. Ask a partner to help.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Listen to a friend's concerns or you'll have a bigger problem later. You'll be even luckier than usual at games and love affairs.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll retain what you learn, so cram your head full of good information. A friend's idiosyncrasies could get in the way of your work.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Unexpected costs put a dent in your budget. Catch up on your assignments. You'll find out all sorts of interesting things.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Make sure everybody understands what they're supposed to do. Money you've been waiting for could come in.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Finish a tough job this morning or suffer the consequences. By this afternoon you'll have lots more control of your own destiny.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A friend can give you the answer. Consult with a wise person just to make sure you know what's going on behind the scenes.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't get into a grumpy person's face — be or she may snap. You and your buddies can find an end run around a difficult situation.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Accept an exotic foreigner's suggestion. That relationship could last. Cater to a weird intellectual's whims.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Completion is your key to success. Do it early and gain valuable prizes.

Bridge

Coming Up Trumps in Georgia
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

North vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J9
♥ A K 8 4
♦ A J 8 6 2
♣ Q

WEST
♠ Q 8 6 2
♥ Q J 9 2
♦ K 10 5 4
♣ 7

EAST
♠ 10 7 4 3
♥ 10 3
♦ Q 7 3
♣ J 9 8 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 5
♥ 7 6 5
♦ Void
♣ A K 10 6 5 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
3♣ Pass 3♥ Pass
3♦ Pass 4♠ Pass
5♦ Pass 6♣ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
Trump Coup Tommy, on a business trip to Atlanta, was pleasantly surprised to discover that the Fall North American Championships were being held there. Since he was free in the evenings, he organized a six-man

team for the knockout event. His teammates were astonished at how he could one moment both the simplest of contracts, only to shine on hands where trumps broke badly. Tommy had no problem with this one.

By Tommy's standards, this was a brilliant auction. His three spades was a good temporary move since it kept the bidding below three no trump. The best bid in the auction, however, was North's raise to six clubs on the singleton queen. Since Tommy probably had a seven-card suit on this auction, her majesty was pure gold.

West's opening salvo of the queen of hearts was won with the king. Had trumps been 3-2 Tommy could have claimed. His technique, however, was impeccable. He ruffed a diamond at trick two! A trump to the queen provided the entry for a second diamond ruff, and the picture became clearer when West discarded a spade on the king of clubs.

A heart to the ace provided the entry to discard the heart loser on the ace of diamonds, and a heart ruff brought Tommy's trumps down to the same length as East's. Tommy cashed the ace and king of spades and exited with a spade, then sat back and collected the last two tricks with the A 10 of trumps over East's J 9.

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TRUE!

By Daryl Cagle

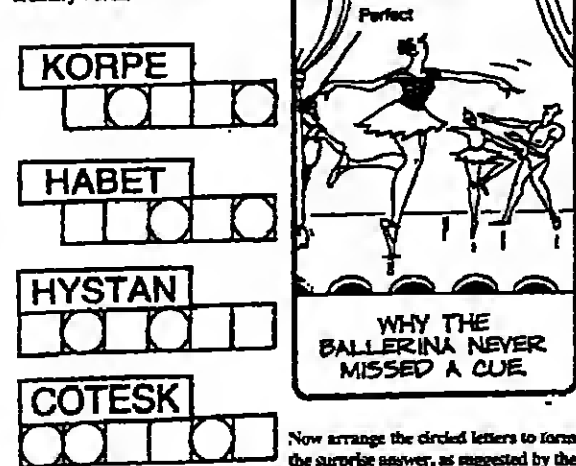


The U.S. Food and Drug Administration considers a 100-gram can of pizza sauce "acceptable" if it contains no more than 30 fly eggs or 15 eggs plus one larvae.

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Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: SHE WAS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Words of Wisdom

A bad reputation condemns without trial.

Failing is not a crime, but aiming too low is.

Character doesn't form in solitude, but only a formed character can exist long alone.

An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.

Second thoughts exist for damned good reasons; they keep us from acting on our first ones.

Constantly worrying is like keeping your umbrella open all the time in anticipation of the occasional rain-storm.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Guerre des mots et des actes entre Arafat et Sa'ed

La guerre des mots entre l'écrivain Edward Sa'ed et l'Autorité Palestinienne s'est intensifiée récemment par l'échange d'accusations et de jugements entre les deux parties. Un responsable palestinien de l'information du mouvement de Fatah, Qassem Kaddoumi, estime que l'éminent écrivain n'a pas le droit de demander au président palestinien Yasser Arafat de démissionner puisque ce dernier a été élu démocratiquement. Dans un article sur la liberté

d'expression publié dans le journal britannique The Guardian et le journal arabe AL Hayat, Sa'ed a critiqué la performance de l'Autorité Palestinienne en la décrivant comme pire que celle de l'occupant israélien. Sa'ed, dont



ses propres livres ont été prohibés dans les territoires palestiniens, demande ainsi au président Arafat soit de changer sa politique dictatoriale qui vise à opprimer les écrivains et les intellectuels, soit de démissionner.

Dans un entretien accordé à la chaîne arabe diffusée par satellite (ART), le président Arafat dit que Sa'ed n'a jamais vécu dans les territoires palestiniens et n'a jamais souffert comme les autres. Sa'ed, insiste le président, n'a donc pas le droit de critiquer l'action de l'administration palestinienne. "Il prétend être intellectuel et philosophe. C'est moi l'intellectuel. C'est moi le philosophe", constate Arafat dans son bref commentaire sur ce sujet.

En Bref

McKhalifeh en Jordanie

L'inauguration du "fast food" McDonald à Amman reçoit un accueil considérable tant au niveau populaire qu'au niveau officiel. Il suscite, affirme le journal satirique Abed Rabbo, la jalousie des entrepreneurs jordaniens. Ces derniers ont ainsi décidé d'ouvrir une nouvelle chaîne de restauration rapide: McKhalifeh. Elle servira aussi bien le hamburger que le Mansaf. Selon ces entrepreneurs, McDonald reflète l'impérialisme américain. Ainsi, l'ouverture de McKhalifeh permettra de combiner l'ensemble de la nourriture que l'on peut trouver en Jordanie.

Les communistes sont des chrétiens

Dans l'un de ses articles relatifs aux effets de la décision du gouvernement d'enseigner la religion chrétienne dans les écoles publiques, le journal hebdomadaire al Bilad constate que cette décision est nécessaire afin de combattre le communisme. L'hebdomadaire cite un prêtre qui affirme que la majorité des membres du parti communiste de Jordanie est chrétienne parce qu'elle n'avait pas appris la religion à l'école. Enseigner alors la religion chrétienne dans les écoles publiques est nécessaire, ajoute le journal. On a également besoin d'élargir la perspective de la nouvelle génération de toutes les religions.

Crime d'honneur contre une ânesse

Un âne a été tué en Jordanie parce qu'il "faisait la cour" à une ânesse. L'homme, identifié comme A.S au quotidien al Aswaq, estime que l'âne a tenu sa réputation quand il a osé faire l'amour avec son ânesse. Il a pris le revolver et a tiré contre le "voleur". Selon lui, l'âne est le premier faufilet: ainsi, il considère sa propre réaction comme un acte de défense de son honneur. A.S. a été juridiquement inculpé. Cependant, le journal ne précisait ni la période de détention ni la nature du tribunal.

Presse et Responsables

Selon l'hebdomadaire al Bilad, un haut responsable Jordanien a envoyé une lettre à l'agence de Presse Petra en la priant pour un journal.

Ces brèves sont des extraits des articles parus dans la presse locale. Ils ne sont pas vérifiés par le Jourdain.

Les Jordaniens célèbrent l'anniversaire du Roi avec espoirs

La Jordanie célèbre aujourd'hui le 61ème anniversaire de sa Majesté le Roi Hussein avec anticipation et enthousiasme. L'anniversaire, qui coïncide avec une période chargée de scepticisme et d'espoir, marquerait certainement un tournant dans l'histoire du gouvernement et de l'avenir du Royaume.

Après la libération de l'arresté opposant Leith Shbeilat ainsi que celle d'autres détenus politiques qui étaient arrêtés pendant et après les émeutes en août dernier, les Jordaniens attendent que le Roi les couvre de plus de faveurs au jour d'hui, le 14 Novembre.

Ils espèrent que le Roi lance une nouvelle politique qui viendrait à alléger les contraintes économiques. Mardi dernier, le roi a mis en cause l'ancienne décision du gouvernement de

presque tripler le prix du pain. Dans une lettre envoyée au premier ministre Abdul Karim Kabariti, le roi lui a demandé de réexaminer cette démarche.

La tension s'est accrue entre le Parlement et le gouvernement suite à la décision du gouvernement d'augmenter le prix du pain en août dernier. Des émeutes au sud du Royaume se sont produites exigeant les représentants du peuple à affronter le gouvernement. Alors que la majorité des parlementaires s'est opposée d'une manière ou d'une autre à la décision du gouvernement, les députés n'ont toutefois pas réussi à s'unir lors du vote.

L'opposition au sein du Parlement a toutefois insisté, pendant et après les émeutes, sur la question de la démission du gouvernement. Cette demande n'est pas toujours exécutée mais les islamistes affir-

ment que le gouvernement n'a pas respecté la volonté du Parlement. Il serait mis à l'épreuve dès le commencement de la séance ordinaire, affirmant-ils.

Si les prix du pain ne baissent pas d'ici à l'ouverture de la séance, les parlementaires évoqueront le sujet et questionneront le gouvernement sur sa décision. Emoush confie au Jourdain que la relation entre le gouvernement et l'opposition, les islamistes en particulier, est mauvaise. Le gouvernement, dit-il, n'a pas répondu aux questions systématiques du comité des libertés sur les détenus politiques. Il ne respecte pas le Parlement et a refusé de fournir à quelques députés, récemment en visite en Syrie, la liste des prisonniers jordaniens dans les prisons syriennes. Selon Bassam Emoush, député du Front d'Action Islamique (IAF) et

président du comité des libertés publiques au Parlement, le comité a préparé une liste de 200 personnes inculpées dans des affaires politiques et la présentée au gouvernement. Il espère que ces personnes seront pardonnées à l'occasion de l'anniversaire du roi.

La liste inclut le leader du parti de la Libération Islamique (Hizb al Tahrir), Ata Abul Rishieh, ainsi que les membres du groupe connu comme islamistes afghans. Selon Emoush, la liste contient aussi le nom des individus qui ont commis des crimes d'honneur (un crime commis par un parent contre une femme soupçonnée d'avoir une liaison avec un homme hors mariage). Emoush estime que même si les crimes d'honneur ne sont pas considérés comme des crimes politiques, ils sont néanmoins des actes qui doivent être pardon-

nés. Cependant les espoirs des Jordaniens vont au-delà du pardon royal. Quelques jours après l'anniversaire, soit mardi prochain, le Roi inaugurera la quatrième session ordinaire du Parlement. On s'attend tout particulièrement à un discours compréhensif sachant que l'atmosphère au sein de la chambre basse est encore chargée.

Ce qui consue réellement une épreuve pour le gouvernement est certainement le projet de loi d'élection. Le premier ministre Kabariti, dès son entrée en fonction en février dernier, a promis d'introduire une nouvelle loi qui permettrait l'égalité entre tous les Jordaniens.

Le gouvernement pourtant n'a rien fait. La loi d'élection, fortement évoquée ces temps-ci, n'a pas néanmoins reçu

l'attention attendue du gouvernement. Dans un entretien accordé au journal islamiste al Sabeel, le ministre de l'information Marwan Muasher dit que le gouvernement n'a pas encore préparé le projet de loi. Le gouvernement a confirmé à plusieurs reprises qu'il était prêt à introduire tout changement demandé par l'opposition sauf sur la nature du vote: une personne, une voix.

L'opposition en revanche estime que cette formule renforcerait la mentalité tribale.

Elle considère que les élections parlementaires, qui auront lieu l'année prochaine, ne doivent pas être conduites sur cette loi temporaire largement rejetée et critiquée.

Cette loi, une personne-une voix, a été introduite par le gouvernement en 1993.

Le débat reprend aujourd'hui autour de cette loi qui serait



probablement l'un des sujets les plus controversés dans les mois à venir. La loi constituerait également un moyen de pression sur le gouvernement, qui tente de retrouver la popularité dont il jouissait il y a huit mois.

Sa'eda Kilani

Le gouvernement introduit l'enseignement chrétien dans les écoles publiques Réactions contradictoires dans le milieu religieux

Fuite scolaire, problèmes de drogue, et délinquance sont des problèmes principaux parmi les élèves chrétiens dans les écoles publiques. Les islamistes estiment que la décision du gouvernement d'introduire la religion chrétienne ne résoudrait pas ces problèmes. Au contraire, l'application de cette décision conduirait à l'extrémisme religieux, affirment-ils.

La nouvelle décision du gouvernement d'Abdul Karim Kabariti d'introduire l'enseignement chrétien dans les écoles publiques a suscité des réactions contradictoires dans les milieux religieux de Jordanie.

Alors que les islamistes estiment que cette démarche mène éventuellement à l'extrémisme religieux d'une part et pourrait préparer le terrain pour l'éducation de la religion juive d'autre part, les chrétiens affirment que l'enseignement de la deuxième religion en Jordanie est indispensable non seulement pour combattre la fuite scolaire parmi les élèves chrétiens mais également pour mettre fin aux problèmes sociaux de drogue et de délinquance.

«Les chrétiens peuvent recevoir l'enseignement religieux dans leurs propres écoles», constate Abdullah Akaleh, un député islamiste à la chambre basse du parlement. «Cependant installer la religion chrétienne dans les écoles publiques est pratiquement impossible».

Selon Abdullah Akaleh, le nombre d'étudiants chrétiens dans les écoles publiques ne dépasse pas les 5000, ce qui est très peu. Embaucher des professeurs et préparer des textes pour ces quelques

étudiants, qui se sont dispersés dans des centaines d'écoles à travers le pays, est impossible.

Il y a 25000 élèves chrétiens dans le Royaume. Vingt mille d'entre eux reçoivent leur enseignement dans des écoles privées. Les élèves restants sont répartis dans plus de 2500 écoles publiques. L'éducation dans les écoles publiques est pratiquement gratuite.

S'ils veulent recevoir un enseignement religieux, ils doivent se débrouiller pour leurs frais scolaires, insiste Abdullah Akaleh, qui fut également ministre de l'enseignement.

«De plus, enseigner la religion chrétienne pourrait engendrer des conséquences néfastes pour la société par le racisme et l'extrémisme en particulier. La minorité doit se soumettre à la volonté de la majorité», ajoute-t-il.

De son point de vue, si cette décision est appliquée, d'autres minorités, comme éventuellement celle des Juifs, revendiqueront aussi l'enseignement officiel de leur religion.

«Mais c'est un droit légitime», insiste Soeur Hilo, directrice de l'école des Soeurs de Nazareth. Le gouvernement a pris la bonne décision».

En fait, depuis 1971, le gouvernement a décidé



«Enseigner la religion chrétienne n'est pas en contradiction avec nos principes et nos moeurs», selon Issat Jaradat

d'introduire l'enseignement chrétien dans les écoles publiques. Cette démarche a affronté plusieurs difficultés notamment l'absence d'une coordination parmi les cinq différentes sectes chrétiennes en Jordanie.

A présent, après plus de 30 ans, les responsables de ces confessions, ont assuré au gouvernement que ces difficultés ont été surmontées. Ils ont donc décidé d'adopter les manuels syriens.

Ils ont ainsi informé le gouvernement de leur décision. Selon Issat Jaradat, secrétaire général du ministère, «il n'y a pratiquement pas d'obstacles pour appliquer ce système».

Toutefois selon Jaradat, le ministère a préparé un plan qui regroupera dans une classe les élèves chrétiens de plusieurs écoles d'un même quartier. Le

plan, qui entrera en vigueur l'année prochaine, n'imposera pas de contrainte économique. De plus, la Jordanie est un pays «pluraliste, démocratique et de tolérance religieuse. Enseigner cette religion n'est pas en contradiction avec nos principes et nos moeurs».

Reem Jasser, âgée de 19 ans, constate que l'enseignement de la religion chrétienne est un atout indéniable. Jasser a étudié une année dans une école publique et n'hésite pas à critiquer le système, notamment sur le plan du traitement des étudiants chrétiens.

«Pendant les cours de religion musulmans, les élèves chrétiens se sont mis dans la cour, explique Reem Jasser, elles n'ont pas le droit d'aller à l'église le dimanche».

Fahd al Sunna, employée

du ministère de l'enseignement et ancien professeur d'anglais dans une école publique, dit qu'il faut donner l'opportunité à chaque individu de connaître sa religion et de se plonger dans les études de Dieu. Le processus influence la personnalité et le comportement des étudiants».

Selon le député Farah Rabadi, qui occupe le siège chrétien à Ajloun, l'enseignement chrétien a été une demande constante des chrétiens de Jordanie. Le premier ministre Kabariti lui a promis avant la séance de vote de confiance de répondre à leurs vœux. Une délégation de députés se rendra en visite à Damas dans deux semaines afin de se familiariser avec le système syrien, ses méthodes et ses moyens d'application.

Oroub el Abed

Le Roi et Shbeilat

Leith Shbeilat, un ardent critique du processus de paix avec Israël, qui était condamné à une période de trois ans pour crime de lèse-majesté, regrettait de ne pas avoir su que sa majesté le roi Hussein l'attendait pour finir son déjeuner. Quand il fut demandé par le directeur de la prison pour sa libération, Shbeilat, qui faisait le jeûne ce jour-là, insista pour rester dans sa cellule afin de pouvoir manger au coucher du soleil. Il ne savait pas alors que le Roi l'attendait. «Si j'en avais pris connaissance, dit-il, je serais sorti immédiatement». Shbeilat a néanmoins démenti ses déclarations et a précisé n'avoir fait aucun commentaire à la presse. Selon le journal hebdomadaire al Hadath, Shbeilat aurait demandé au Roi d'avoir la même initiative (du pardon royal) pour les autres prisonniers politiques, comme les Afghans. Le Roi lui a promis que l'avenir serait plus favorable à de telles décisions. Shbeilat n'a pas confirmé ni démenti cette information.

Le Roi a ensuite emmené Shbeilat dans sa voiture et l'a conduit de la prison Suwaqa jusqu'à la maison de la mère de l'opposant. La presse n'a pas encore de détails quant à la conversation qui s'est déroulée entre l'opposant et le roi pendant ce long voyage de deux heures. Il n'est pas encore sûr que Shbeilat, déjà deux fois député, ait l'intention de se présenter pour les prochaines élections parlementaires qui se dérouleront en 1997. Tout dépend finalement du caractère de son défilé à l'égard de la famille royale: s'il est seulement considéré comme politique, Shbeilat pourrait revenir à la vie publique.

Pour les curieux adeptes de topologie ou de cartographie, un coup d'oeil rapide sur la carte de Madaba située dans l'Eglise Saint-Georges peut surprendre. La localisation des villes et des lieux sur cette carte n'est en effet pas organisée de façon moderne avec le Nord en haut et le Sud en bas. Sur ce document, la mer Méditerranée à la tête en bas, et l'Egypte se retrouve à droite de Jérusalem.

La carte est en fait orientée vers l'Est, comme l'étaient presque toutes les cartes chrétiennes byzantines, afin de pouvoir être lue par celui qui entrait dans l'église. Elle s'étend dans sa longueur de l'Egypte au Liban, et dans sa largeur de la mer Méditerranée aux montagnes jordaniennes.

157 légendes en caractères sont inscrites en grec. Un chiffre bien inférieur au nombre d'inscriptions originales. La taille initiale de la carte étant évaluée à 15,6 mètres de long sur 6 mètres de large. Elle ne mesure plus aujourd'hui qu'environ 10,5 mètres de long sur 5 mètres de large.

Cette mosaïque ne doit pas être simplement considérée comme une oeuvre d'art, mais bien plus comme une première tentative de restitution fidèle de la géographie de la région. Ses auteurs se sont attachés à représenter scrupuleusement l'ensemble des lieux saints. Ils ont ainsi réalisé la plus vieille carte de Palestine. Elle servira d'ailleurs de référence jusqu'à l'apparition de la cartographie moderne au 19ème siècle.

Elle n'a été découverte que tardivement, à la fin du 19ème siècle. Suite à des dissensions entre les communautés chrétienne et musulmane de Kérak, un groupe de chrétiens a été autorisé à venir s'installer à Madaba en 1880. Quelques années plus tard, ils ont mis au jour cette carte alors qu'ils procédaient à des travaux de rénovation des anciennes églises grecques orthodoxes. Cette découverte n'a alors pas fait beaucoup de bruit, et il a fallu attendre 1896 pour que son existence soit révélée dans le monde entier. C'est en effet suite à la visite du révérend père Kleopas Kolokydes à Madaba qu'un document a été édité et que l'existence de cette carte a été connue du grand public.

La date exacte de sa conception n'est pas connue, tout comme l'identité de ses auteurs. D'après l'étude des villes répertoriées sur la carte, il est très probable qu'elle ait été réalisée dans la deuxième moitié du sixième siècle, sous le règne de l'empereur romain Justinien (527-565). Les indications portées sur la carte correspondent en fait à des témoignages de pèlerins datant de 570 après JC qui mentionnent les mêmes villes et les mêmes endroits dans leurs écrits. Des détails comme la présence de la nouvelle basilique de la mère de Dieu, construite par l'empereur Justinien, permettent d'être sûr qu'elle date d'après 542. La destruction par les Perses de nombreux édifices religieux signalés sur la carte à partir de 614 permet, à l'inverse, d'être sûr qu'elle a été réalisée avant.

Les mosaïstes de Madaba se sont inspirés de modèles très répandus chez les Byzantins. Leurs oeuvres sont réalisées à partir de «tesserae», des petits morceaux de pierre. Les auteurs ont utilisés des pierres de différentes couleurs, ainsi que quelques morceaux de verre. La diversité des couleurs disponibles dans la région donne aux mosaïstes de Madaba leur aspect si vivant. Très peu de mosaïques sont signées et on ne connaît pas grand chose de leurs auteurs. Certains noms arabes retrouvés permettent tout de même de savoir qu'ils étaient de la région.

Jérusalem occupe le centre de la carte de Madaba. Cette localisation centrale démontre l'importance qu'a prise la ville sainte au sixième siècle. Les fortifications, les portes de la ville, les basiliques y sont méticuleusement dessinées. Très précis, ce plan de ville permet aujourd'hui d'identifier deux basiliques, celle de Holy Zion et celle de Nea Theotokos.

La question qui reste est celle du but de cette carte. Les commanditaires de cette oeuvre auraient en effet très bien pu se contenter d'une oeuvre décorative, sans chercher à obtenir une représentation précise de la région. On ne peut à ce sujet que formuler des hypothèses. Il est ainsi probable que cette carte ait été destinée aux pèlerins de la région pour leur permettre de se repérer sur la Terre sainte.

Olivier Bras

Des étudiantes du Collège de la Princesse Sarvath prétendent que le doyen de la faculté, Radi Waqfi, les harcèle parce qu'elles portent un tchador



Le tchador, est-il un phénomène étrange de notre pays.

dor tun voile généralement noir qui couvre le visage et les cheveux). Dans une plainte publiée dans le journal islamiste al Sabeel, les étudiantes expliquent qu'elles souffrent quotidiennement de l'abus verbal du doyen qui leur a demandé de quitter le collège ou bien d'enlever le tchador.

Selon Radi Waqfi, ces étudiantes voilées donnent une mauvaise réputation au collège. Il justifie son comportement, dit hostile par les étudiantes, autour de trois raisons principales:

- D'un point de vue pédagogique, le professeur ne peut jamais savoir si les étudiantes, dont le visage est couvert, ont bien compris la leçon, si elles étaient attentives ou endormies pendant la classe.

- Du point de vue de la sécurité, il est imprudent de laisser quatre étudiantes complètement voilées. En effet, il n'y a pas

moyen de savoir si un individu, caché derrière le même voile, est entré ou non au collège.

- D'un point de vue religieux, la loi islamique n'a pas imposé le tchador qui couvre le visage. «Il ne fait pas partie de notre tradition ou de notre culture», constate Radi Waqfi.

Al Sabeel considère que les autorités locales doivent résoudre ce problème parce qu'il est directement lié aux droits de l'homme et à la liberté d'expression.

Dans une réponse publiée dans le même journal, Mohammad Oweidat, député islamiste à la chambre basse du Parlement, estime que c'est une affaire de liberté publique et que le doyen n'a pas le droit de se comporter de cette manière avec les étudiantes.

«Le plus étrange, dans les commentaires du doyen, est de dire que le tchador ne fait pas partie de notre religion et de

notre tradition. A-t-il décidé lui-même à la place du Mufiti? Croit-il qu'il est devenu la référence principale des causes religieuses?»

Oweidat insiste sur le fait que le tchador fait bien partie de la religion, en citant des versets coraniques et des traditions du prophète Mahomet relatifs à la nécessité de porter le voile. Cependant, il n'a pas précisé de quel voile il s'agit: celui qui couvre les cheveux ou celui qui couvre le visage.

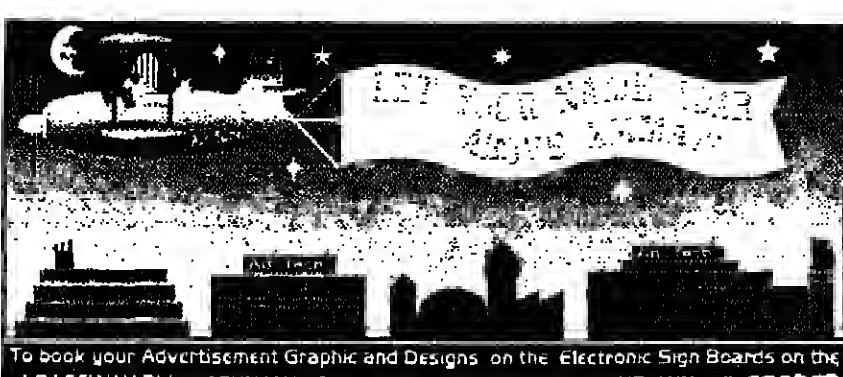
«Le doyen doit laisser les étudiantes choisir ce qu'elles veulent», insiste le député, et même s'il n'a pas le droit de se poster pour harceler celles qui ne partagent pas ses idées.

Le Jourdain

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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Opened last Monday and running till Friday: METS 96 celebrates 'on & off'-line technology

THE MIDDLE East Technology Show (METS) '96 was opened last Monday by HRH Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein, signaling the start of a four-day celebration of computers and information technology.

This year's slogan of 'The World of Internet' worked well for METS '96, with the on-line service providers, web-designers, and general Internet service companies all participating.

Of course, Global One/Internet Jordan exhibited its Internet on-line service at METS '96, as part of an attractively designed stand. The company had succeeded in setting up a 64 Kbit/sec circuit, specifically for the show, enabling all the on-line exhibitors to actually go live.

Launching at METS '96 were Computer Networking Services (CNS), whose Primus BBS provided an attraction point for most visitors, especially as the company was offering a 50% off subscription special for METS '96.

NETS was present at the show with a stand that incorporated a demonstration area at which the company was highlighting its latest software interface, the new version of First Class. The NETS booth was very active.

Magnet, the Web-design and Internet training company was also at METS '96, sharing a booth with the new e-mail service provider, Mail Work.

Business Optimization Consultants (BOC), had a rather simple but 'cozy' set-up, especially with part of their stand

being an Internet Cafe at which coffee and tea was served to visitors while navigating the Web. That must have been one

sions offered the power of Silicon Graphics and Tandem, and Ideal Systems displayed Apple Macintosh and DTK computers.

Tantash Information Systems Group (TISG) focused on showcasing the Acer Aspire, which incorporates a slick design and haptic color. It comes with complete multimedia. Also, TISG were highlighting their software developed under Power Builder and were also showing their Texas Instruments products and Sybase.

Specialized Technical Systems (STS) was displaying their full range of AST PCs, Sun workstations and Apple Macintosh computers. A hot product at the STS stand was a Java server, by Sun, optimized to deliver unparalleled performance. STS also displayed its range of Microsoft products.

Making a welcome appearance at METS '96 were Computer & Engineering Bureau (CEB), who displayed the Micron range of PCs, a new brand in Jordan which has caught on in the corporate mar-

ket. Also, CEB displayed its Oracle solutions and IBM high-end systems.

A new company, Global Voice Systems was showing its computer telephony solutions, which include voice mail systems that come with impressive features.

Moving onto the Shopper's Area, there were a variety of companies exhibiting. The most prominent companies included Radio Shack, which offered a mix of consumer electronics including AST PCs, and Panasonic phones, and Quintet Group for Information and Technology, whose Citizen printers and GIP PCs stood out.

Also in the Shopper's Area were companies like Shouadi Trading Co., Jordan Radio Paging, Computer Corner, Haupshy Group, Abu-Rumaleh Bookshop and others.

METS '96 is still open today and tomorrow. Visiting METS '96 represents an opportunity to see all the latest hardware, software and accessories in the Jordanian market. Don't miss it.

HRH Prince Faisal opens METS '96



HRH Prince Faisal opens METS '96



A pioneering project, initiated by a number of Palestinian organizations:

The Palestinian E-mail Directory

By Bassem Nasir
Special to The Star

RAMALLAH—The use of computer technology in Palestine is spreading fast among institutions, companies, and individuals.

Almost all Palestinian universities already operate computer networks with e-mail. Moreover, many governmental, non-governmental and private institutions also have access to e-mail.

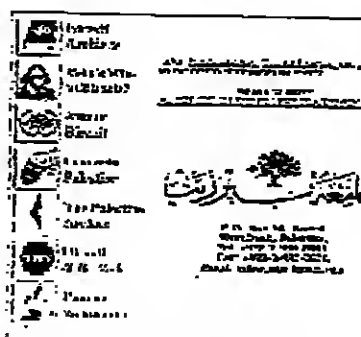
There are four service providers in the West Bank providing access to e-mail, the Internet, and the World Wide Web. On the other hand, the number of Palestinians and Palestinian organizations outside Palestine with access to e-mail is far higher.

A number of Palestinian organizations understand this important fact, and want to utilize the Internet revolution for the purpose of the advancement of the Palestinian people, combining all the efforts and expertise of Palestinians from all over the world.

With communication via e-mail so accessible and widespread these days, it would be useful to create a database aimed at facilitating communication among Palestinians.

Birzeit University, Palnet

(service provider), and Baraka (Palestinian NGO network) have started to build this database simply by advertising it



throughout the Internet to Palestinians worldwide, asking them to provide information about themselves. This information is to be made available on-line for everybody to use.

Details of the profession, company/organization, city of residence, and Palestinian city of origin will be accessible. One of the aims of this project will be to coordinate the existing mechanisms and to create new and innovative ones, to form a cohesive body of Palestinian individuals united in their goals of achieving a Palestinian state and of improving the living conditions of all Pal-

estinians. Palestinians abroad will be asked on how they could help the Palestinian cause: by offering their expertise to other Palestinian individuals or institutions, by investing in projects in Palestine, by joining in letter writing campaigns intended to support the Palestinian cause, or by contributing through other means. Moreover, Palestinians in the diaspora from the same village, city, or area of origin would be able to know each other and strengthen their bonds to their homeland. Eventually they will contribute together to the betterment of the Palestinian community. This project is already underway. It will be constantly updated and revised, to ensure the success of this project, the organizations involved are encouraging Palestinians worldwide to spread the news of the 'Palestinian e-mail Directory'. Those interested, are required to send a message that includes their name, e-mail address, profession, country of residence and city of origin in Palestine.

Only active participation will ensure the success of the project. Forms and inquiries should be sent to Bassem Nasir, email address: bnasir@admin.birzeit.edu.

News update

Connect to Primus through Microsoft Internet Explorer

Computer Networking Services (CNS) have announced that their Primus BBS can be easily accessed by users through Microsoft Internet Explorer, the standard browser that comes with Windows 95. CNS believes that this development makes Primus a natural choice for Jordanian users, looking forward to tapping into a world of information by simply clicking a button inside Windows 95.

For more information, contact CNS at telephone 614755.

Sakhr Software introduces its Arabic Internet Applications

In a surprising development, Sakhr Software announced its suite of Internet applications, including Sakhr Arabic Browser, and Internet-enabled

versions of Sakhr desktop publisher and Al Usaz Wordprocessor, among others.

Sakhr Arabic Browser plugs into Netscape, allowing users to browse Arabic Web pages. Sakhr's DTP and wordprocessors now allow HTML programming. These products are revolutionary and will surely promote more Arabic presence on the Internet. Next week, we will include a comprehensive report on Sakhr's Arabic Internet applications, based on an exclusive in *BITE Middle East*.

MailWork arrives

At METS '96, a new company was announced, to provide e-mail services, and capitalize on the need for e-mail, at a low cost.

The company is called Mail Work, and it will provide a 'secure and affordable' e-mail connection to customers. More information on MailWork soon.

Life goes on in little nation after huge loss

ESCHEN, Liechtenstein—Even after suffering one of the worst defeats in World Cup history, life quickly went back to normal for Liechtenstein's part-time soccer players.

On Monday, Harry Zech was at his job as a wine-maker and his midfield partner Roland Hiltl was back in his role as a school-teacher while defender Patrik Heftl was back delivering the mail.

Forward Ralf Oehri, who missed Liechtenstein's previous match with Lithuania because he couldn't get time away from a new job, was back in the bakery and in fact, everyone was back in their day-jobs including Dietrich Weise.

But Weise's day-job is a little different from most of the others as he is Liechtenstein's first and only full-time soccer

coach. Or he has been up until now.

For even before Saturday's 11-1 loss to Macedonia—the joint-fourth highest defeat in the World Cup's 66-year-history—

Weise said he would soon be leaving to take up a job in Germany.

"In Liechtenstein I have learned about success but in this match I know failure," said Weise, who coached at Eintracht Frankfurt in the 1980s and was with the Egyptian national team from 1991-1993. "In Liechtenstein we have only amateurs."

"First there is work and after that is done then only can we have training." Living with crushing defeat is not a new experience for the players from this tiny alpine nation of 30,000 sandwiched between Switzerland and

Austria.

Since making their international debut in 1981, Liechtenstein, whose seven clubs compete in the lower divisions of the Swiss League, have known only minimal success.

They actually won three friendly matches in succession in 1981 and 1982—against Indonesia, Malaysia and astonishingly China. But from the early 1980s—apart from one match against Austria in 1984—they did not play international soccer again until 1990 when the United States beat them 4-1 in a friendly in Eschen.

Their first competitive match was on April 20, 1994 when they lost 4-1 to Northern Ireland in Belfast in a European championship qualifier and since then their record has made frightening reading.

Consistently hammered by some of the best, and not so best in Europe, they have played 14 matches since

1994, winning none, drawing one and losing 13. The goals column is equally depressing: for three against 60.

The high point came on June 3, 1995 when Liechtenstein held the Republic of Ireland to a 0-0 draw in Eschen—a result which eventually cost the Republic a place in this summer's Euro 96 finals in England.

But even though the players might have resigned themselves to the drubbings, it's clear that local soccer fans have little desire to come and see their compatriots get hammered. Despite it being the only game in town on Saturday, only 2,900 turned out in sunny and unseasonably warm November weather for the game with Macedonia.

Before the game, traffic around the capital of Vaduz was snarled but the cars were headed for the markets and not the ground. Horns blared not with supporters but with angry shoppers anxious to find somewhere to park.

While the match—or rather the one-sided soccer exhibition was being played out—goods were bought in the market, prices were haggled over.

Unless you were in the stadium it was easy to forget the match was even taking place. An hour after the game finished and the Macedonians had piled into their buses for the start of their long trip home, the little ground was deserted.

"Actually it's sad that people don't care that much about the national team," said Weise.

"Now the novelty is over, they have to win to be accepted. And Liechtenstein has a new team, there is no tradition." They also have no stadium, only a small ground without floodlights and a small stand for 300 people.

But Ernst Nigg, president of the Liechtenstein Football Association believes, just like Kevin Costner in the movies, that if he builds one, they will come.

His Field of Dreams is a 6,000 all-seater, floodlit stadium in Vaduz which scheduled to begin construction next year.

"When we have a new stadium we won't have to play in the afternoon," said Nigg, adding that FIFA and UEFA have both insisted on a new facility if Liechtenstein wants to continue to compete internationally.

"If we could play at night I believe more people would come." For the Liechtenstein players, the goal each time they step onto the field is always the same.

"Our game plan is to play defensively for as long as possible as to try and keep the score 0-0," explained Heftl. "Then play minute-to-minute and hope the other team starts to get worried and makes a mistake."

You step on the field against some of the big teams and you wonder, what are you doing here. You get nervous but there is no fear.

The next test comes in March when Liechtenstein travel to Romania, who are regarded as far more formidable opponents than Macedonia.

Following Saturday's crushing defeat, just keeping the score down to single figures in Bucharest might well be seen as a success in itself.

International Soccer News

World Cup tickets go on sale to public this month

PARIS—Tickets for the 1998 World Cup finals in France will go on sale to the general public from 27 November, the French Organizing Committee (CFO) headed by Michel Platini said on Tuesday.

The CFO said the "Pass France-98" block tickets for five or six first and second round matches would remain on sale until February 1998 when tickets for individual first round matches will be made available.

"We are now into the active phase of the World Cup," said Platini, who co-chairs the CFO with Fernand Sastre.

"We want this World Cup to respect values of universality. It must be the festival of football, the festival of youth and open to everyone."

Tickets for the opening match at the new 80,000 capacity Stade de France ground at Saint-Denis on the Paris outskirts on 10 June, 1998, the quarterfinals, semifinals, third place playoff and final at Saint-Denis on 12 July will go on sale towards the end of 1997. Of a total of 2.5 million tickets, the CFO has so far sold 525,000 Pass

France-98 tickets to members of the football community, such as club players, directors and referees as well as people involved on the commercial side of the game.

Ticket prices range from between 145 (\$29) and 350 francs (\$70) for a first round match to 350 to 2,950 francs (\$590) for the final.

Cottbus through to German Cup semifinal for first time

BONN—Regional league side Energie Cottbus on Tuesday clinched a place in the semifinals of the German Cup for the first time in their history with a penalty shoot-out victory over first division St. Pauli.

The first 90 minutes in front of over 12,000 fans in Cottbus ended goal-less thanks to outstanding saves from both the home side's Kay Wenner and Klaus Thomforde of St. Pauli.

After extra time also failed to produce a goal the two goalkeepers were again thrust into the spotlight, each managing to save their five regulation penalties.

Cottbus midfielder Mike Jesse con-

verted his side's first sudden death kick and Wenner saved from St. Pauli's Matthias Scherz to secure victory for the east German side.

Roma told to pay transfer fee four years later

ZURICH—Italian club Roma were ordered on Tuesday to pay Red Star Belgrade a transfer fee of \$9 million for Yugoslav midfielder Sinisa Mihajlovic, who played for them between 1992 and 1994.

FIFA, world soccer's governing body, told Roma to pay the fee—originally withheld because of UN sanctions against Yugoslavia—plus around \$2 million in interest for the 27-year-old international.

Ironically, Mihajlovic is no longer at Roma, having moved to Sampdoria at the start of the 1994-95 season.

When the sanctions were lifted in 1995, Roma first agreed and then refused to pay the fee which now amounts to over \$11.1 million with interest.

Mihajlovic missed out on the 1990 World Cup finals because the then-Yugoslav coach Ivica Osim thought he was too young and inexperienced.

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

More Internet Service Providers emerge in Jordan

THE GLOBAL Internet, from Global One. That's the advertisement slogan for the Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Jordan, Global One/Internet Jordan, is promoting.

After around nine months of complete monopoly, and being absolutely in the limelight and at the forefront of every single Internet or on-line event, Global One/Internet Jordan is about to be challenged.

A couple of weeks ago, we quoted a report stating that six companies had been licensed as ISPs in Jordan. Apparently, it was true and the opportunity that METS '96 offered for these companies to 'come out of the dark', has made many facts on these companies' plans surface.

Most obvious at METS '96 is a new company called First Telecommunications Group (FTG), which announces itself as an AT&T Internet Partner.

The company slogan goes as follows: 'The Internet will be as easy to use as the telephone, but much cheaper.' FTG says that it "established a partnership with the leading telecommunications company in the world of Internet (AT&T), to introduce access and value added services at a reasonable cost to Jordanians."

Of course, 'reasonable cost' is the key phrase here, intended to touch on the general feeling that the Internet is priced beyond the reach of most computer users in the country. Anyway, FTG says that its service is 'coming soon!'. So, we'll have to wait and see if it is as 'easy' as they say, or if it is as 'reasonably priced'.

Other companies, which have gained ISP licenses and have made no secret of it include NETS, the country's well-established bulletin board service (BBS).

"The idea is to better serve our current customers, by facilitating their communications with the rest of the world. We can now offer very reduced e-mail charges," said Mr Marwan Juma, general manager of NETS, commenting on his company's recently obtaining an ISP license.

"We may provide users with a ramp onto the Internet later on, very much like leading the BBS" all over the world do for their subscribers," Mr Juma added.

From the looks of it, NETS is planning to stay out of the Internet accounts business, which Global One/Internet Jordan performs now, while sticking to selling BBS accounts that come with Internet benefits.

Among the other companies which obtained ISP licenses is Comcent, which did not participate in METS '96. A representative of Comcent I talked to, told me unofficially, that the company hoped to provide its service sometime in the beginning of next year.

Global One/Internet Jordan had something to say about the plans of competing companies to launch soon.

"It takes a lot of time and effort to set-up an Internet on-line service," said Mr Imad Ayoub, general manager of Global One/Internet Jordan. "We, for example, had postponed our launch several times, over the course of late 1995 into early 1996, in order to be able to deliver the kind of service we wanted."

These points, made by Mr Ayoub, are agreed upon by almost every communications specialist in Jordan. The licensed ISPs are looking at a tough road ahead, before they can actually deliver the service.

Sometimes, when I think of the potential size of the Jordanian on-line market, I feel rather baffled. Nobody can give you reliable figures and everyone is just 'betting on their instincts'. Somehow, that doesn't sound like a good bet. Still, there are people out there, hungry for the Internet, regardless of their number.

Competition never hurts anybody. In fact, it could be just the thing needed to really bring the Internet to the majority of Jordanian computer users.



● LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Mike Tyson, his face swollen and cut above his left eye from his 11-round defeat to challenger Evander Holyfield 9 November, waits for a post-fight news conference to begin. (UPI)

Goalie beaten by fans undergoes brain surgery

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—Goalie Ricardo Pinto had surgery Tuesday to remove a blood clot from his brain, two days after he was beaten by fans during a first-division match.

Pinto was listed in serious condition at the Caju Hospital in Curitiba, where he plays for the Atletico-Parana soccer club. "The surgery went well, but the next 72 hours will be critical," team doctor Edilson Thiele said in a televised interview from Curitiba.

Thiele said doctors decided to operate after Pinto showed difficulty moving his left arm, and tests revealed a concussion and fluid on his brain.

"The surgery was to prevent future problems," Thiele said. "He is conscious and breathing without the help of a respirator." Pinto was targeted by irate Fluminense fans during Sunday's game, which Atletico won 3-2.

Fans pelted the goalie with rocks, sandals—even a radio. After the game, fans surged onto the field and surrounded Pinto, punching and kicking him. One man grabbed a photographer's

aluminum tripod and beat him.

Pinto was carried to the locker room where he received eight stitches, while fans pounded on the door shouting "We'll kill him." He left the stadium under police guard. The goalie denied he had provoked fans with an exaggerated celebration after the game. "I celebrated as I always do," he said. "But here, there were animals."

Governor Marcello Alencar of Rio de Janeiro state ordered an investigation into the incident. Police obtained a TV videotape of the game to identify Pinto's attackers. The Brazilian Soccer Confederation penalized Fluminense with the loss of home field advantage for five games. With only one home game left this season, Fluminense will serve out the punishment next year. Soccer violence in Brazil is nothing new, but usually involves rival fans, not players.

Last year, a brawl between rival factions at a junior championship game between Sao Paulo and Palmeiras left one teenager dead. Police used TV film footage to identify an assailant, who was arrested and charged with murder.